An Osage Horizon | The Earth in Norman | Anthony Shadid

Oklahoma TODAY

7 WEDDING DAY MUST-HAVES

MARCH | APRIL 2006

109 Museums *To Visit* Right Now

page 16

The HORNETS: The NBA Finds a Home in Oklahoma City
page 40

Plus, James Garner, Reba McEntire, Megan Mullally, and Ron Williams on their favorite funny people

"To build permanently and wisely is to benefit all mankind."
—Frank Phillips

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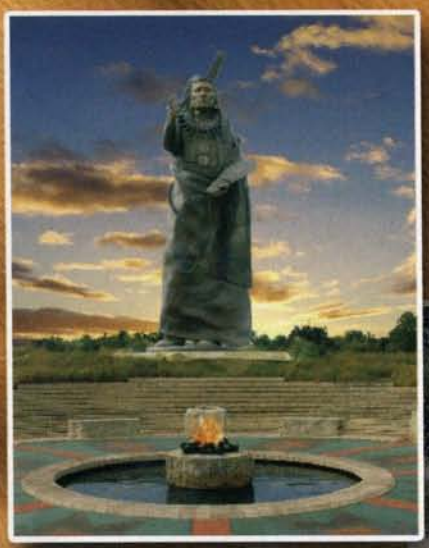

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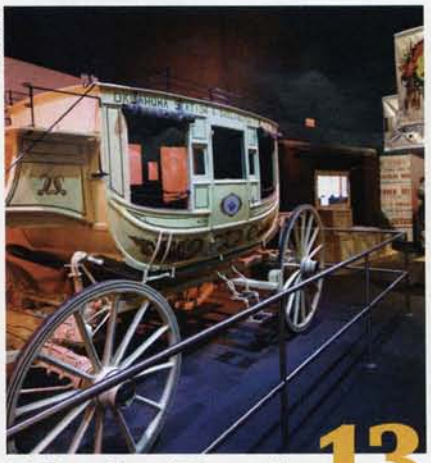
Oklahoma TODAY

"Oklahoma City is a major-league city."
—*NBA commissioner David Stern*

MARCH • APRIL 2006 | VOLUME 56, NUMBER 2

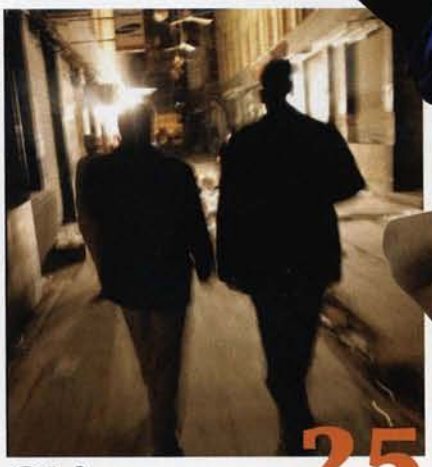
On the Cover: The lodge located at Woolaroc Ranch, Museum and Wildlife Preserve is a popular Bartlesville-area museum destination and was once the country home of Frank Phillips. Photo by John Elk III



STAPLEGUN

Hit the Road 13

This information-packed traveler's guide to **109 Oklahoma museums** should forever cure your idle weekend blues. Plus, the **RedHawks** and **Rusty Gables B&B**



BILL O'LEARY

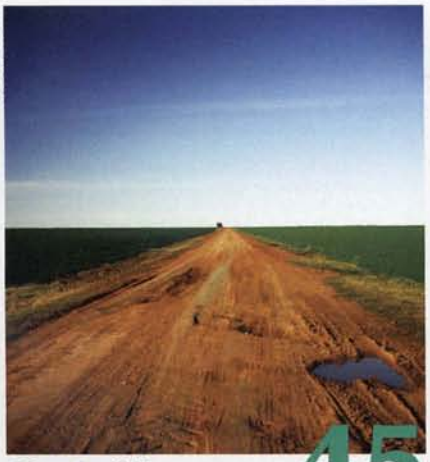
Okies 25

Anthony Shadid of Oklahoma City wins critics' hearts and a Pulitzer. And don't miss our exclusive visits with Norman boys **James Garner** and **Mike Wimmer**.

SUE OGROCKI/AP PHOTO

Culture 35

Thanks to mayor **Mick Cornett** of Oklahoma City, our state is home to the **NBA's Hornets**. Be sure to get to Tulsa for the **After Lewis & Clark** exhibit.



SHANE BROWN

Outside 45

From good-cause **biker rallies** to the vast prairies of **Osage County**, plenty of Oklahoma activities are on tap to keep you occupied this spring.

EVAN TAYLOR

Eat Up 51

Satisfy your belly with cold suds and warm shepherd's pie at **Kilkenny's Authentic Irish Pub** in Tulsa or get your greens at **the Earth** in Norman.

Head

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The Weatherford wind farm

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Wayne and Carrie forever!

10 Marketplace
No wedding-day tears here.

59 Events Guide
Two calendars and a golf scramble

64 Where Are You?
She lost her head at this fort.

IT TAKES ONE to know one, was the philosophy in picking **Scott Fitzgerald** to write a profile on Pulitzer Prize-winner Anthony Shadid ("War Stories," page 30). A veteran newspaper journalist, Fitzgerald has worked at the *Enid News & Eagle* since 1995, winning several awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Associated Press in the process. "I had a chance to learn from one of the best in the business," says Fitzgerald about Shadid. "I wrote two drafts, continually asking myself questions until I was satisfied I had breathed life into this story about a truly gifted individual Oklahoma can proudly claim." The El Paso native worked for newspapers in West Texas before moving to Oklahoma.

ANDY CARPENEAN

JOLANA MCCART

SUSAN OWEN ATKINSON is all about community. As the City of Norman's first neighborhood planner, Atkinson manages historic preservation and neighborhood projects and has a background in anthropology and urban planning. "It was a joy telling the story of people who are living their values and working hard to sustain the vital tradition of the community grocery store," says Atkinson of her story "The Earth's Goodness" (page 54). In 2002, the North Carolina native and her husband "bought a house sight unseen and moved to Norman to be near family." Says this mother of two, "I am privileged to reside for the rest of my life in the land of Woody, Will, and Wilma."

I LEARNED MORE ABOUT the history of my home state in the two weeks of research I did for this piece than in all of my formal education," says freelance writer **Kimberly Mauck**, who penned this issue's museum package, "The Museum: Where Knowledge Is King" (page 16). "The challenges this magazine gives me are the kind I relish." After graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 2004, the Durant native and former *Oklahoma Today* intern headed south and accepted a position as the Gear Up Information Technology Coordinator for Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The self-proclaimed Harry Potter fan and movie buff lives in Durant with her husband, Jay, and dogs, Shadow and Ranger.

Oklahoma TODAY

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IRMA Magazine of the Year, 2005, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1991; 2005 Katie Award for Best Magazine Illustration; 2005 San Francisco Honorary Publications Award for Best Fiction; 2005 Maggie Award, Black & White Editorial Layout; 2005 Silver District and Three Addy Awards; 2005 IABC Award of Excellence, Feature Writing; 2004 Oklahoma SPJ First Place, Feature Writing; 2003 IRMA Gold for Best Nature Feature; 2003 Oklahoma SPJ First Place, Overall Excellence; 2003 Oklahoma SPJ First Place, Feature Writing; 2002 IRMA Gold for Best Profile; 1999 Folio Editorial Excellence Award; 1998 Wilbur Award. *For a comprehensive list, visit oklahomatoday.com.*

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This spring, he will help ten girls exhibit their livestock at the Marshall County Junior Livestock Show, and in August, he'll feed hundreds of people at his annual fish fry.

Raymond Gary was the first Governor born in Oklahoma since statehood. Born in 1908 on a farm midway between Madill and Kingston, he graduated from Madill High School and attended Southeastern State College in Durant.

After five years of teaching, he was elected County Superintendent of Marshall County schools in 1932. In 1936, he entered business and later became president of Sooner Oil Company.

He served as state Senator for fourteen years beginning in 1941 until he became Governor in 1955. He served as Governor from 1955 to 1959.

Governor Gary and his wife, Emma, loved children, and in 1976, they gave 37 acres of their ranch to begin the Baptist Children's Home at Madill.

Later, they gave money to begin the construction of the cottages. The first children were admitted to the Home in 1977.

In 1987, they established a trust to benefit the Baptist Children's Home and to help defray the expenses of the annual Raymond Gary Fish Fry.

The Children's Home is now the Baptist Home for Girls. The 34 girls who live at the Home have the opportunity to participate in the animal program and livestock shows.

You can make a difference for children in need of a home by including Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children in your will or estate plan. Contact Neal Wooldridge at (405) 942-3000, extension 4665, or e-mail neal.wooldridge@obhc.org to learn how.

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Baptist Home for Girls, Madill

OBHC does not charge for its services or accept government funds. We help children without regard to religious affiliation. OBHC is dependent upon the generosity of caring people and churches. To find out how you can make a difference in the life of an Oklahoma child in need of a home, visit www.obhc.org.

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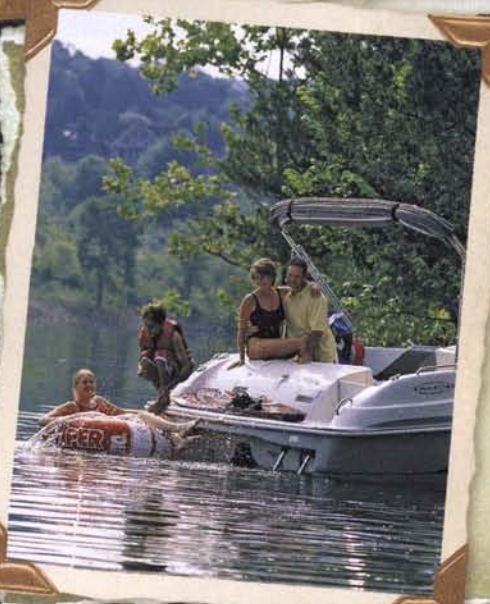

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"When at Windmill Park, tune your radio to FM 90.3 and listen to Windmill Willie tell the story of windmills and how they changed the West." — ***The Shattuck Windmill Museum website***

JOHN JEFNIGAN

A Mighty Wind

Something's blowing on Interstate 40

JUST AS THE State Capitol Dome is a perfect symbol of Oklahoma progress and our romance with the past, another striking Oklahoma landmark is both awe-inspiring, breathtaking, and a working symbol of our future.

When was the last time you drove down Interstate 40 past the charming and burgeoning small town of Weatherford? On the north and south sides of the highway are no less than ninety-eight giant white wind turbines dotting the prairie landscape, a spectacle more reminiscent of artist Alexander Calder or Oklahoma City architect **Rand Elliott** than industrial innovation.

The **Weatherford Wind Energy Center**, which became fully operational in April 2005 (the expansion was completed in December 2005), will stop you in your tracks. In fact, it's such a startling site—it's the largest such farm in Oklahoma—it might motivate first-time viewers to pull into town and stop for a soda just to marvel a little bit longer at the design sensation that has taken root.

A wind farm of this magnitude taps into our geocultural heritage in the same way the unique **Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park**, another western Oklahoma curiosity, does. Whereas environmental greenies on the East Coast balk at the notion of wind turbines planted visibly off their coastline and pristine beaches, here, a wind farm harnesses precisely the two elements that have long helped to define us: the land and the wind. We embrace it, and, to our benefit, it embraces us.

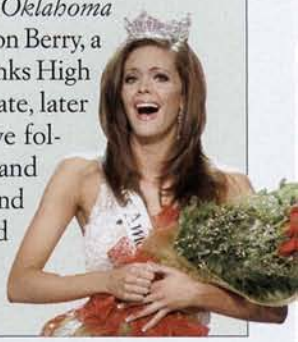
ON A RELATED but separate note, I'd like to encourage *Oklahoma Today* readers to spend their dollars in this great state of ours. Oklahoma is at an important commercial juncture with the arrival of Dell and the departure of the GM plant, both in Oklahoma City. The more we demonstrate our commitment and devotion to Oklahoma with our pocketbooks, the better off we all are as Oklahomans.

Photographer Shane Brown captured this buffalo in Bison, Oklahoma. Check out his image of Osage County on page 48.

SHANE BROWN

There She Is

A big congratulations to twenty-two-year-old **Jennifer Berry**, the University of Oklahoma student who became the fifth Oklahoman to win the Miss America pageant on January 21, 2006, in Las Vegas. Expect to see an *Oklahoma Today* profile on Berry, a Tulsan and Jenks High School graduate, later this year as we follow her reign and successes around the nation and the world.



The unfettered support we've shown our visiting NBA team, the **New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets** (page 40), is a case in point. Sold-out crowds at the Ford Center, one upon another, have simply dumbfounded NBA commissioner David Stern and team owner George Shinn. This is exactly the kind of investment and tangible support that keeps our state moving forward.

In addition to visiting our sports venues, don't forget to eat at your locally owned restaurants. Some of my regular stops in Oklahoma City include the new **Café Nova** and old standby **VZD's**, both on Western Avenue. Need some new threads? Traditional men will like **Covenant Brothers**; hippie chicks will have fun at the **Shoe Gypsy**. And when it's time for a new toy, visit the **Learning Tree**, where a knowledgeable owner and vibrant employees will help you find what you're looking for. These are my favorites. What are yours?

Larissa

mccune@oklahomatoday.com

Lips Love

Readers rave over our Flaming Lips story.

Fans on Fire

Your story on the Flaming Lips ("Lip Service," November/December 2005) was terrific, terrific, terrific. Those of us who have grown up on alternative music hold this group in such high esteem, yet amazingly, they remain essentially unknown.

I was interviewing for a residency position at a university on the East Coast several years ago. When asked who my favorite Oklahoman was, I said, "Wayne Coyne." The panel looked at me funny, the interview quickly came to an end, and they didn't offer me a position. I felt I sacrificed my residency position for my love of the Lips. It was awesome.

The article was brilliant.

Brett Jameson
Stillwater

Outstanding job on the Flaming Lips piece. I wrote a freelance article on them a couple of years ago for a short-lived magazine called *Oklahoma Music*. Your piece far and away topped mine—really comprehensive and revealing. It's great that you featured Michelle prominently; she's an underappreciated player in their story.

It's good to see the Oklahoma mainstream establishment recognizing the Lips. It's long overdue. Sure, Garth, Vince, and Reba are famous and popular, but they also don't stray far from the Okie stereotype. If anything, they reinforce it. The Lips may be Oklahoma's most important cultural ambassadors since Will Rogers.

Steve Higgins
Tulsa

'The Lips may be Oklahoma's most important cultural ambassadors since Will Rogers.'

—Steve Higgins

Thanks for the marvelous cover story on the Flaming Lips. It's good to see them getting some home-state recognition, now that they're legendary in alternative-rock circles around the world. Senior editor Steffie Corcoran did a great job conveying the Zeitgeist of the Lips to those of us who may have heard of them but didn't really know what they were about. *The Soft Bulletin* is now on my wish list.

Kudos to your magazine for having the guts to throw convention to the prairie wind and cover the things that truly make Oklahoma the unique place it is, whether it be tornadoes or a rock group that fancies *Christmas on Mars*. Keep up the award-winning work!

Bob Henson
Louisville, Colorado

***Oklahoma Today*'s Oklahoman of the Year award made the pages of the January 16, 2006, issue of *Us Weekly*.**

I am proud to be an Okie this fine day. Super-freaking awesome portrait of a truly local treasure. I learned Lips things I didn't know, saw faces I'd seldom seen. Great reporting, perfect inclusion.

You nailed it with the Jim DeRogatis quote that said a band is not supposed to be peaking at this stage of its career. Thanks to you, perhaps the marvel of this fact will persevere.

In short, I read and dug every blessed word of that story. And cheers to editor Louisa McCune-Elmore for summing it up so well in her letter.

You guys, like the lads, *rawk*!

Mark Brown
Tulsa

In all my years of worshipping the Lips and reading every word ever written on the band, yours is one of the very few publications that actually nailed it. Steffie Corcoran may be the only journalist not to call them "weirdos," which is something I continue to find disappointing.

I was touched by the way you portrayed the band not only as an Oklahoma treasure but an artistic entity of great international value. I love this band, and I love the fact that you had the grace, reverence, and intelligence to reflect your view of them in print in a way that maybe no one has done before.

I will send this feature to every press outlet in the country when I send out new press kits for 2006.

Rick Gershon
Warner Bros. Publicist
Sherman Oaks, California

"American Idol Carrie Underwood, 22, was named "Oklahoman of the Year" for the 50th anniversary issue of *Oklahoma Today*, on newsstands now." — ***Us Weekly, January 16, 2006***

We Don't Do Jelly

I found it rather tacky of Steffie Corcoran, in her effort to be oh-so-cool and underground and in-the-know, to studiously ignore the fact that the Flaming Lips didn't just recently become media darlings. Their 1993 album *Transmissions From the Satellite Heart* first brought them to wide national consciousness and resulted in the Top 10 alternative hit "She Don't Use Jelly," which almost cracked the pop Top 40 as well.

Considering how much airplay the song got on local radio stations and cable video channels, it's terribly disingenuous to skip over that happenstance. If you're trying to do justice to "enlightening Oklahoma" about the "greatest rock band," it doesn't hurt to remind readers so they can say, "Oh, yeah, I remember that song!" or "Oh, wow, did they do that song?"

Michael J. Lee
Oklahoma City

Carrie-ing On

I just read Kathryn Jenson White's "Carrie Me Home" article in the January/February 2006 issue of *Oklahoma Today*. So impressive. I loved *The Wizard of Oz* twist in it as well. Ironically, I haven't even been following the *American Idol* shows, but I can definitely say your article made me adore Carrie Underwood.

Hilarie Fite
Oklahoma City

PETAstrophe

I usually enjoy your magazine; however, I think you and the wonderful Miss Underwood would have been better served if you had omitted the PETA comments. This organization offers nothing but problems to Oklahoma. Some experts even label them terrorists.

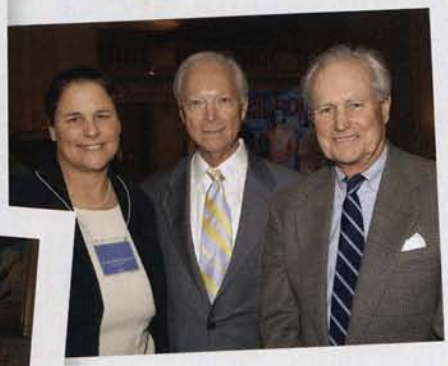
Jack Tow
Marietta

Location, Location, Location

Thanks for the magazine. You do great work with Oklahoma Today. Whenever we have out-of-state people considering our research park as a home, we always give them *Oklahoma Today* as an enticement, and it works! Bona fortuna in your enterprise.

Mike Anderson, President
Presbyterian Health Foundation
Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Today welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to: Oklahoma Today, Attn: Editor, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, or fax to (405) 230-8650. Address electronic mail to letters@oklahomatoday.com.



Oklahoma Today **celebrates its fiftieth anniversary throughout 2006 and kicked off the year with two events on January 12, 2006, a morning reception at the State Capitol and an evening reception at the Oklahoma History Center sponsored by the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. From above, clockwise: Oklahoma governors David Walters, Brad Henry, and George Nigh; Governor Brad Henry; the Winnie Mae replica at the OHC; publisher Joan Henderson with former tourism directors Ralph McCalmont and Edward H. Cook; First Lady Kim Henry with musicians Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg; and former art director and editor Paul Lefebvre and former editor in chief Sue Carter.**

FRED W. MARVEL

"If Kerry Vincent is a cake decorator, then Michelangelo is a church painter."
—*The Oregonian*

The Big Day

By Louisa McCune-Elmore

Getting married in Oklahoma is a piece of cake.

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A Daisy If You Do

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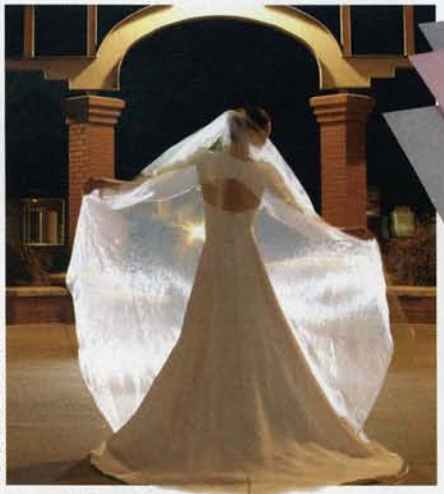
HAWKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Big, Fat, and White

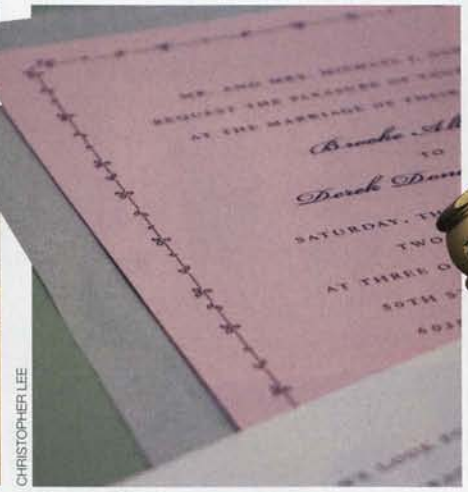
Tulsa resident **Kerry Vincent**, cofounder of the Oklahoma State Sugar Art Show, is famous for her wedding cakes, which start at $2,000. On a budget? Gather inspiration from her 2001 book, *Romantic Wedding Cakes*. (918) 299-7125 or oksugarartshow.com.



MUNCY PHOTOGRAPHY

The White Album

Muncy Photography in Enid captures compelling digital images of the wedding day and offers conveniences like online event viewing. Portraits start at $50; wedding events at $1,495. (580) 233-0570 or muncyphotography.com.



CHRISTOPHER LEE

Paper Chase

Nothing says more about the event to come than the invitation. Darwin Bragg of **Red Fox Paperie** in Oklahoma City's Northpark Mall recommends sending invitations four to six weeks in advance. Choose from Crane's, XXOX, and Birchcraft. (405) 748-4813.

The Ring Bearer

Coleman Clark of B.C. Clark Jewelers considers **Susan Sadler** of Tulsa one of the most creative jewelry designers in the business. Her hand-fabricated platinum or nineteen-carat yellow gold wedding rings start at $3,000. Susan Sadler Designs, (918) 743-1048.

WESS GRAY

Couture wedding gowns are made here in Oklahoma by D'Plazzo, an upscale line designed by Oklahoma Christian University graduate Saundra Lee. Select existing designs or create a custom garment. Custom gowns start at $1,800. (405) 401-8994 or dplazzo.com.

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1946 | 2006

Ada
Best Western Raintree Motor Inn
Altus
Best Western Altus
Ardmore
Best Western Ardmore Inn
Atoka
Best Western Atoka Inn
Bartlesville
Best Western Weston Inn
Blackwell
Best Western Blackwell Inn
Broken Arrow
Best Western Kenosha Inn
Chickasha
Best Western Inn
Claremore
Best Western Will Rogers Inn
Durant
Best Western Markita Inn
Edmond
Best Western Edmond Inn & Suites
El Reno
Best Western Hensley's
Elk City
Best Western Elk City Inn
Enid
Best Western Inn
Glenpool (Tulsa Area)
Best Western Glenpool/Tulsa
Grove
Best Western TimberRidge Inn
Guthrie
Best Western Territorial Inn
Lawton
Best Western Lawton Hotel & Convention Center
McAlester
Best Western Inn of McAlester
Miami
Best Western Inn of Miami
Oklahoma City
Best Western Broadway Inn & Suites
Best Western Memorial Inn & Suites
Best Western Saddleback Inn & Conference Center
Oklahoma City Area (Moore)
Best Western Greentree Inn & Suites
Okmulgee
Best Western Okmulgee
Owasso (Tulsa Area)
Best Western Owasso Inn & Suites
Perry
Best Western Cherokee Strip Motel
Poteau
Best Western Traders Inn
Sallisaw
Best Western Blue Ribbon Inn
Sand Springs (Tulsa Area)
Best Western Sand Springs Inn & Suites
Stillwater
Best Western Stillwater
Stroud
Best Western Stroud Motor Lodge
Tahlequah
Best Western Tahlequah Inn
Tulsa
Best Western Airport
Best Western Trade Winds Central Inn
Best Western Tulsa Inn & Suites
Tulsa Area (Jenks)
Best Western Aquarium Inn and Suites
Weatherford
Best Western Mark Motor Hotel
West Siloam Springs
Best Western Stateline Lodge
Yukon (Oklahoma City Area)
Best Western Inn & Suites-Yukon

Offer valid for AAA Preferred Gold Crown Club® International ("GCCI") members residing in US, Canada and Caribbean. Pre-registration and enrollment in AAA® Preferred GCCI required prior to 1st stay. *12,000 point Global Free Room Night Award ("Voucher"), valid for 6 months from issuance date, will be sent to qualified members following end of promotional period. Qualifying night stay means one or more nights at a participating hotel regardless of check-in/check-outs, at a qualifying rate. AAA® Preferred members can earn one free night if they stay five nights (need not be consecutive nights). Only Sun-Thursday nights qualify. GCCI reserves the right to limit the number of vouchers awarded. Offer subject to cancellation/change without notice. See goldcrownclub.com for additional terms, conditions, and restrictions on offer. Other restrictions may apply. Offer not valid with any other promotion or discount. All GCCI program rules apply. GCCI is owned and operated by BW GCCI, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Best Western International, Inc. Best Western hotels are independently owned and operated. Best Western and the Best Western marks are service marks or registered service marks of Best Western International, Inc. ©2006 Best Western International, Inc.

Hit the Road

"The museum represents all of Oklahoma and Oklahomans."
—Oklahoma History Center director Dan Provo

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STAPLEGUN

The Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City is home to four permanent galleries, including the Inasmuch Gallery, which spotlights Oklahoma's cultural history.

Destination Now

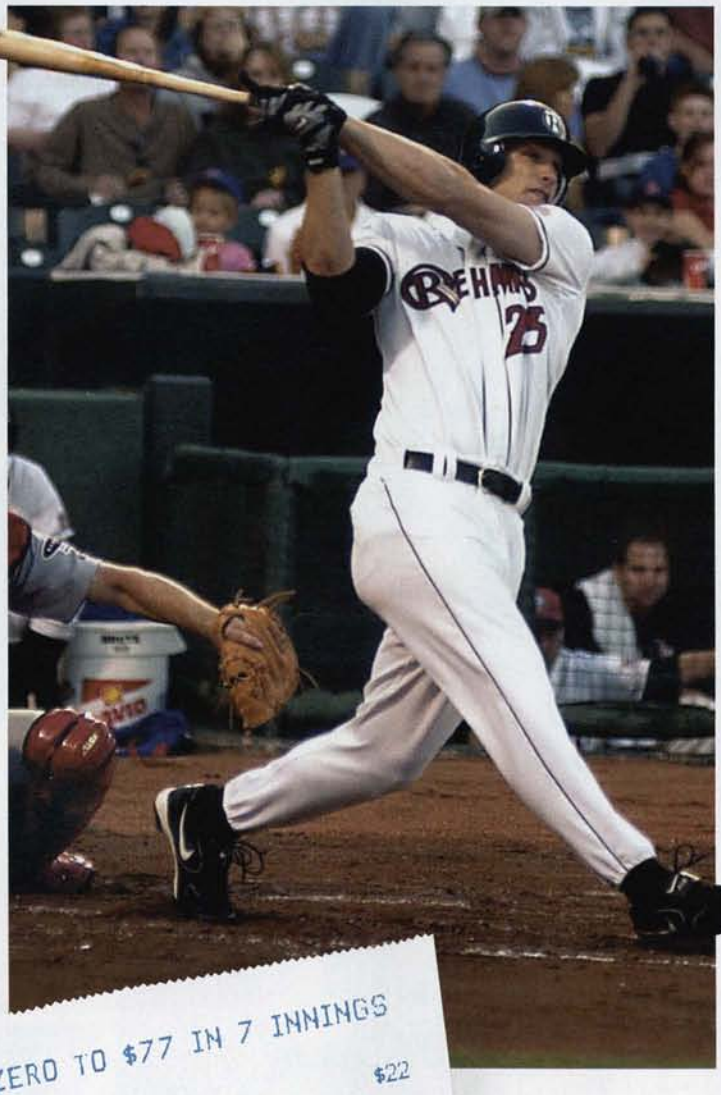
Then and Now

The new Oklahoma History Center is making history of its own as a must-see travel destination.

OKLAHOMA'S RICH PAST is now preserved at the **Oklahoma History Center**, illuminating the state's culture in grand architectural style. Almost a decade in the making, the **Oklahoma Historical Society**'s new facility across from the State Capitol gives the **Oklahoma Museum of History** five times the exhibit space of its former building. Must-see exhibits include artifacts from a recently excavated 1838 Red River steamship, a Civil War cannon, and the Oklahoma American Indian Exhibit. The museum also features an eighty-foot glass atrium with a replica of the Winnie Mae, which Wiley Post flew around the world in 1931 and 1933. **—Kimberly Mauck**

Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird. (405) 522-5248 or okhc.us.

"Nothing's ever been as fun as baseball."
—Mickey Mantle



Batter Up!

Nothing says spring like a day at the ballpark, in this case, the SBC Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City.

ONE, TWO, THREE strikes, you're out! The door, that is—to the **SBC Bricktown Ballpark**. The vintage-style 13,066-seat venue located in the heart of **Bricktown** has been home to the Texas Rangers' AAA team **Oklahoma RedHawks** since opening in 1998, one of the key components of Oklahoma City's Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS).

This spring, there's a whole roster of reasons to visit the Brick. The always-competitive 'Hawks are fresh off a 2005 American Conference South Division championship, their second in a row. Beginning with an eight-game home stand on April 6, a total of sixteen home contests are on the month's calendar, and brand-new manager **Tim Ireland** takes the team's reins. It's a great time to grab a ball cap and head to the Brick for a few hours of fun, warm sunshine, and home runs.

—**Steffie Corcoran**

The SBC Bricktown Ballpark is located at 2 South Mickey Mantle Drive in downtown Oklahoma City. (405) 218-1000 or oklahomaredhawks.com.

ZERO TO $77 IN 7 INNINGS

2 box seats	$22
Adjustable home game hat	$18.95
Mini bat	$4.95
Team ball	$3.95
Lapel pin	$2.95
2 soft drinks in souvenir cups	$7.50
2 slices of Hideaway pizza	$6
Ice cream	$3.50
2 popcorns	$7
Two dimes you dropped down the bleachers while digging for change to give the popcorn guy	20¢
:::	$77

CHRISTOPHER LEE

The Oklahoma RedHawks kick off the 2006 season with a home game on April 6.

The Emerald Glen Suite is one of two guest accommodations at the Rusty Gables Guest Lodge & Gallery, a 30-acre property and lodge in northeast Oklahoma City.

SAM NICOLOSI

Feelin' Rusty?

An Oklahoma City bed and breakfast has just the solution for those tired old bones.

A RECENT ARRIVAL ON the Oklahoma bed and breakfast scene, **Rusty Gables Guest Lodge & Gallery** in Oklahoma City offers country solace with big-city convenience. The western-style ranch property is just five minutes east of **Bricktown**.

Owners Sam Nicolosi and Don Paul opened Rusty Gables in early 2005. The lodge's two 700-square-foot suites include Jacuzzis, king-size beds, fireplaces, and sitting rooms. After a little R&R, guests can soak up culture in the **Great Room Gallery** or sip Oklahoma-made wines on the lodge's expansive porch.

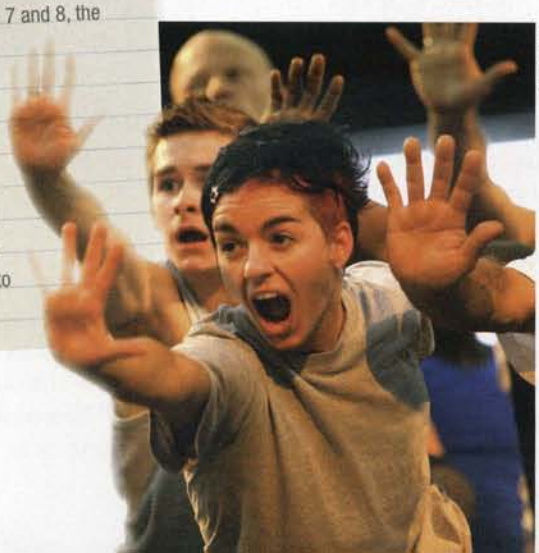
Spring through fall, the lodge provides ten horses for guided journeys along the Rusty Gables trails. For Nicolosi, the ranch is a dream come true. "What I hear from people the most is, 'I can't believe how I feel so far out in the country when I'm just off the highway." **—Megan Rossman**

Rusty Gables Guest Lodge & Gallery suites range from $169 to $199 per night, breakfast included. 3800 Northeast Fiftieth Street, (405) 424-1015 or rustygablesbb.com.

Get This!

Cirque du Soleil Delirium Tickets

Prepare to be dazzled. On March 7 and 8, the pounding rhythms, enormous projection screens, mind-bending lyrics, and forty-five performers that make up the urban musical extravaganza of **Cirque du Soleil's Delirium** arrives at Oklahoma City's Ford Center. 8 p.m. Tickets, $69.50 to $99.50. okfordcenter.com.



ERIC PICHÉ

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CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF ART & COLLABORATION AT GEMINI G.E.L.

art on paper

VIEW AND PURCHASE MUSEUM QUALITY PRINTS BY SOME OF TODAY'S MOST COLLECTED ARTISTS

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Opening Gala: Friday, March 24th, 2006
7 - 10pm $50

Gallery Hours
Mon - Thurs 9am - 10pm
Fri & Sat 9am - 5pm
Free Admission

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AT FAIR PARK
3000 General Pershing Blvd. | OKC, OK 73107
405-951-0000 | www.cityartscenter.org

The Museum: Where Knowledge Is King

By Kimberly Mauck

At these 109 institutions of art, culture, history, and the generally sublime, travelers will boost their Oklahoma IQs in no time. Plus, in honor of Women's History Month in March, meet four high-achieving gals and their favorite museums.

AIR & SPACE

From high-flying pilot Wiley Post to out-of-this-world astronaut Tom Stafford, Oklahoma has a strong history in air and space.

In **Weatherford**, visitors can blast off to the **Thomas P. Stafford Air and Space Museum**, a facility devoted to NASA astronaut and Weatherford High School graduate Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford. Holdings include his space suit helmet and a vintage NASA control panel. The museum also contains extensive air travel exhibits, including four military planes and replicas of the Spirit of St. Louis and the 1903 Wright Flyer. *(580) 772-5871 or staffordairandspacemuseum.com.*

- **Tulsa Air and Space Museum**, (918) 834-9900 or tulsaairandspacemuseum.com

ARCHITECTURE

If Frank Lloyd Wright builds it, they will come. **Bartlesville** is home to the only skyscraper ever built by one of America's most celebrated architects, the **Price Tower Art Center**. The 221-foot-tall structure houses rotating architecture exhibitions, the Inn at Price Tower, and the Copper Restaurant + Bar. Museum spokesperson Jennifer Cordero says, "Price Tower is the only Frank Lloyd Wright-built skyscraper inspired by a tree." *(918) 336-4949 or pricetower.org.*

Shawnee's Romanesque **Santa Fe Depot Museum**, home of the Historical Society of Pottawatomie County, is another of Oklahoma's important architectural structures. *(405) 275-8412 or santafedepotmuseum.org.*

- **Belvidere Mansion, Claremore**, (918) 342-1127 or rchs1.org/belvidere.htm
- **Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Center**, (405) 282-1281 or guthriescottishrite.org

ART

Art isn't just for art's sake at **Tulsa's Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art**. Here, art preserves and celebrates a culture. "There were Jews in Oklahoma before the state was a state. Our goal is to present that heritage," says Brenda Michael-Haggard, the museum's development director. The Sherwin Miller is also home to a **Holocaust Education Center** and the **Oklahoma Jewish Archives**. *(918) 492-1818 or jewishmuseum.net.*

Artist, cowgirl, single mother: These three usually distinct terms describe a true Oklahoma original, Augusta Corson Metcalfe. After a long day on the farm, Metcalfe painted rich depictions of life on a turn-of-the-century Indian Territory farm. Her works are on display at her family's original 640-acre homestead in **Durham**, the **Break O'Day Farm and Metcalfe Museum**, along with original and relocated buildings. *(580) 655-4467 or metcalfemuseum.org.*

The Sooner State has Benedictine monk and artist Father Gregory Gerrer to thank for a priceless art collection that spans centuries and continents. **Shawnee's Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art** houses more than 6,000 artifacts and works of art from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. Father Gerrer's collection is so huge, only 3 percent of it can be displayed at the museum, located on the St. Gregory's University campus. *(405) 878-5300 or mgmoa.org.*

- **Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman**, (405) 325-3272 or ou.edu/fjjma
- **Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa**, (888) 655-2278 or gilcrease.org
- **Jacobson House Native Art Center, Norman**, (405) 366-1667 or jacobsonhouse.com
- **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City**, (405) 478-2250 or nationalcowboymuseum.org
- **Oklahoma City Museum of Art**, (405) 236-3100 or okcmoa.com
- **Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa**, (800) 324-7941 or philbrook.org

STAPLEGUN

This two-ton replica of Wiley Post's Winnie Mae was built by Southwest Museum Services in Houston. The original Winnie Mae is displayed at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.

CHILDREN

No more pencils, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks at these three educational museums made just for kids.

The **Jasmine Moran Children's Museum** in **Seminole** is a grown-up world reduced to kid size, where children can try out grocery shopping and test-drive careers. *(800) 259-5437 or jasminemoran.com.*

Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse in **Enid** is a place for kids to be kids, with a three-story castle full of obstacle courses and mazes, a "dinosaur dig" sandbox, dress-up area, art studio, and music lab. *(580) 233-2787 or leonardos.org.*

Oklahoma City's Omniplex Science Museum is fun for kids of all ages, with a planetarium, summer camps, and exhibits designed to be poked, prodded, and climbed. *(800) 532-7652 or omniplex.org.*

GEOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

In Oklahoma's natural history museums, the past is so alive, Pawnee Bill seems like a newcomer and the Conestoga wagon a newfangled contraption.

The University of Oklahoma's **Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History** in **Norman** makes no bones about being the premier facility for dinosaur remains in the state. The Hall of Ancient Life takes visitors through the Age of Dinosaurs, featuring the world's largest reconstruction of an *Apatosaurus*, while the **Hall of Natural Wonders** offers a tour of Oklahoma wildlife, including a limestone cave, mixed-grass prairie, and Ozark forest. *(405) 325-4712 or snomnh.ou.edu.*

Where do Oklahoma's tribal artifacts come from? Visit the **Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center** to find one source. The state's only archaeological park was a site for a meeting of some sixty tribes from across the lower Mississippi Valley and has yielded thousands of religious and ornamental objects. Says Spiro Mounds manager Dennis Peterson, "Of the 20,000 archaeological sites in the state, only this one is open to the public." *(918) 962-2062 or myspiro.com.*

'Of the 20,000 archaeological sites in the state, only this one is open to the public.'

—Dennis Peterson, Spiro Mounds manager

JOHN JERNIGAN

Grande Dame: Martha Watson Griffin

"The Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee tells the greatest and most powerful story in American history," says Martha Watson Griffin, president and CEO of MGW Enterprises in Muskogee and owner and manager of the Watson Ranch in Morris, Oklahoma. "I am always amazed by the struggles and victories that are told through the art." Griffin, whose family owns Griffin Food Company and Griffin Television, says Jerome Tiger's *Trail of Tears* is among her favorites at the Muskogee museum. "It tells a moving story," she says.

- **NWOSU Museum of Natural History, Alva**, (580) 327-8513 or nwosu.edu
- **Oklahoma Aquarium, Jenks**, (918) 296-3474 or okaquarium.org
- **Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center Museum, Broken Bow**, (580) 494-6497 or beaversbend.com/fhc.html
- **Richard O. Dodrill's Museum of Rocks, Minerals & Fossils, Cushing**, (918) 225-0662
- **Timberlake Rose Rock Museum, Noble**, (405) 872-9838 or roserockmuseum.com
- **Tucker Tower, Ardmore**, (580) 223-4044 or oklahomaparks.com

LIVING HISTORY

The **Fort Gibson Historic Site** is located on an Indian Territory army post which operated from 1824 to the 1890s. Today, a reconstructed log fort and twenty-eight other historic buildings dot the property. "We tell stories of the past," says historic interpreter Mike Bradley. "It certainly is education, but if I didn't think it was fun, I wouldn't be doing it." *(918) 478-4088 or okhistory.org.*

A house made of dirt may not sound very inviting, but thousands of people visit **Aline's** century-old **Sod House Museum** each year. Oklahoma Land Run participant Marshal McCully built this "soddy" in 1894. Legend has it that McCully's sodhouse survived while all others have fallen back into the earth because of the protection provided by a large elm tree

and a two-story frame house McCully later built. *(580) 463-2441 or okhistory.org.*

- **Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry**, (580) 336-2405 or okhistory.org
- **Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant**, (580) 924-6502 or okhistory.org
- **Har-Ber Village, Grove**, (918) 786-3488 or har-bervillage.com
- **Harn Homestead and 1889ers Museum, Oklahoma City**, (405) 235-4058 or harnhomestead.com
- **Oklahoma Frontier Drugstore Museum, Guthrie**, (405) 282-1895
- **Old Town Museum Complex, Elk City**, (580) 225-6266 or elkcity.com
- **Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm, Sallisaw**, (918) 966-3396 or kerrcenter.com/overstreet/index.html
- **Pioneer Heritage Townsite Center, Frederick**, (580) 335-5844

MILITARY

Oklahoma citizens can easily fall into formation to learn the military history of our great state.

An excellent first duty station is the **Fort Sill National Historic Landmark**, with fifty original military buildings that date to 1846. Visitors can march around the Cannon Walk, where they'll see Atomic Annie, the first atomic cannon, and pay respects to warriors Geronimo and Quanah Parker.

"Fort Sill has been a crossroads in Oklahoma and American history," says historic site director and curator Towana Spivey. "The military, civilian, and Native American men, women, and children who lived and died on these hallowed grounds made an indelible impression on Oklahoma and American history." *(580) 442-5123 or sill-www.army.mil/museum.*

The nation's largest military history museum is **Oklahoma City's 45th Infantry Division Museum**. Enthusiasts will marvel at the quantity of uniforms, military vehicles, and artillery displayed. *(405) 424-5313 or 45thdivisionmuseum.com.*

- **Confederate Memorial Museum & Cemetery, Atoka**, (580) 889-7192 or civilwaralbum.com/atoka
- **Historic Fort Reno, El Reno**, (405) 262-3987 or fortreno.org
- **U.S.S. *Batfish* & War Memorial Park, Muskogee**, (918) 682-6294 or ussbatfish.com
- **Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne**, (580) 497-2742 or nps.gov/waba

MUSIC

Some art is better heard than seen, and a few Oklahoma museums devote their attention to that very idea.

The **National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame Museum** in **Guthrie** is the only museum in the country devoted to this original American instrument. Pickers and grinners will delight in the ornate banjos on display and the instrument's history, from minstrel to big band. *(800) 652-2656 or banjomuseum.com.*

Oklahoma jazz greats like Charlie Christian and Chet Baker are commemorated at **Tulsa's Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame**, where a library and historic photographs give music lovers plenty to pore over. *(800) 348-9336 or okjazz.org.*

Lawton's Percussive Arts Society Museum displays percussion instruments from around the world. Visitors can try out instruments in a hands-on exhibit or browse a percussion reference library. *(580) 353-1455 or pas.org.*

NATIVE AMERICAN

Thirty-nine Indian tribes are headquartered in Oklahoma, and many have their own museums. Whether specific to one tribe or general to Native culture, these facilities

FRED W. MARVEL

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman includes a number of kid-friendly exhibits.

JOHN JERNIGAN

Book Smart: Kimberly J. Johnson

Branch manager of the South Broken Arrow Library, New York City native Kimberly J. Johnson of Tulsa says Oklahoma's newest big museum, the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City, is her favorite. "You leave the museum with a well-rounded, comprehensive understanding of Oklahoma and its people," she says. Calling the museum's Clara Luper exhibit a must-see, Johnson, the coordinator of the African-American Resource Center for the Tulsa City-County Library from 1998 to 2005, is credited with starting the Tulsa Metro Reads countywide reading program.

tell an Oklahoma story in which all citizens have a part.

Tahlequah's Cherokee Heritage Center is much more than a museum; it's home to the Cherokee Family Research Center, the Tsa-La-Gi Ancient Village, and the Adams Corner Rural Village. The Trail of Tears exhibit depicts the Cherokees' forced removal to Indian Territory in six galleries. "Cultural diversity is a very important part of what makes Tahlequah and Cherokee County tick. The Cherokee Heritage Center is an important resource for that," says Tahlequah mayor Ken Purdy. *(888) 999-6007 or cherokeeheritage.org.*

The **Creek Council House Museum** in Okmulgee is an architectural masterpiece that dates to 1878 and houses artifacts documenting the history of the Muscogee-Creek Nation. Recipient of a national preservation award, the two-story building was once the seat of tribal government. *(918) 756-2324.*

- **Ataloa Lodge Museum, Muskogee,** (888) 682-5514 or bacone.edu/ataloa
- **Chickasaw Council House Museum, Tishomingo,** (580) 371-3351
- **Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee,** (918) 683-1701 or fivetribes.org
- **Indian City USA, Anadarko,** (800) 433-5661 or indiancityusa.com
- **Plains Indians & Pioneers Museum, Woodward,** (866) 384-2172 or pipm1.com
- **Southern Plains Indian Museum, Anadarko,** (405) 247-6221

OIL INDUSTRY

Seminole's Oklahoma Oil Museum documents the state's oil-boom days, featuring a 127-foot historic derrick and

JOHN JERNIGAN

Special Delivery: Mary Anne McCaffree, MD

"The Oklahoma City Museum of Art is my favorite," says neonatologist Mary Anne McCaffree, a professor of pediatrics at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. "Our children have grown up learning about art from many sources, and the Oklahoma City museums were a big part of that. To have this fabulous building with great displays and the Chihuly makes it even better. We live near downtown, in Edgemere Park, and love the proximity to this jewel." McCaffree is widely recognized for her achievements in the medical community and, in 2005, received the prestigious Abraham Jacobi Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the first neonatologist and Oklahoman to do so.

'Fort Sill has been a crossroads in Oklahoma and American history.'

—Towana Spivey, curator of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark

other oil-field equipment. *(405) 382-1500 or oklahoma-oilmuseum.com.*

Oklahoma's tenth governor, E.W. Marland, was founder of Marland Oil Company, later Conoco. His business bought him a "Palace on the Prairie" in **Ponca City**, the **Marland Mansion**, a $5.5 million Italian manor with gold ceilings and magnificent murals.

"This is a rags-to-riches saga of romance, wealth, power, palatial villas, and fabulous parties," says David Keathly, executive director of the Marland Estate. "Governor Marland and Lydie's story is a Shakespearean-type tragedy and great mystery woven into the first three decades of Oklahoma's statehood." *(800) 422-8340 or marlandmansion.com.*

The lavish country home of Frank Phillips, founder of Phillips Petroleum Company, is now **Woolaroc Ranch, Museum and Wildlife Preserve**, a 3,700-acre property in **Bartlesville**. The museum houses western art and artifacts, while buffalo, elk, and longhorn cattle roam the ranch freely. *(888) 966-5276 or woolaroc.org.*

- **Healdton Oil Museum**, (580) 229-0900 or okhistory.org
- **Triangle Heritage Oil & Historical Museum, Cleveland**, (918) 358-3348

OKLAHOMA HISTORY

Lawton's Museum of the Great Plains focuses on the history of the Plains Indians, with more than 3,200 tribal artifacts and a recreated downtown. Lawton mayor John Purcell enjoys absorbing the history of his hometown and state—and introducing it to a new generation. "I like to bring my grandson so he can see what Lawton used to look like even before my time," Purcell says. *(580) 581-3460 or museumgreatplains.org.*

If you want to know what's cool about Oklahoma's past—from outlaws to the first country and western band—visit Ripley's **Washington Irving Trail Museum**. Located at the site where American writer Washington Irving documented Oklahoma before settlement, the museum contains a permanent "History's Forgotten Treasures" exhibit and a western Americana antique shop. *(405) 624-9130 or cowboy.net/nonprofit/irving.*

- **Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum**, (405) 235-3313 or oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org
- **Oklahoma Governor's Mansion, Oklahoma City**, (405) 522-8871 or governor.state.ok.us
- **Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City**, (405) 522-5248 or okhc.us
- **Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie**, (405) 282-7286 or okhistory.org

OKLAHOMANS

A few larger-than-life Oklahomans have been so thoroughly written into the state's history that their homes have been preserved and converted into museums.

Pawnee Bill promoted his Wild West Show all over the world between 1888 and 1913, but he always came back to the **Pawnee Bill Ranch Historic Site**. "His Buffalo Ranch on Blue Hawk Peak in Pawnee serves as a testimony to one man's dream of stardom and his vision to preserve elements of Oklahoma history forever," says Erin Brown, historical collections specialist for the ranch. *(918) 762-2513 or okhistory.org.*

Built in 1903, the **Overholser Mansion** was the first mansion built in what would become **Oklahoma City's** Heritage Hills neighborhood.

FRED W. MARVEL

The Ataloa Lodge Museum in Muskogee was dedicated in 1932.

FRED W. MARVEL

This display contains items in the Romancing the Trail exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

"This house is a reminder of the indomitable pioneer spirit of the 1889ers, that anything is possible in Oklahoma," says Heather Seifert, executive director of Preservation Oklahoma. *(405) 528-8485 or preserveok.org.*

- **Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum**, (580) 294-3047 or cow-boy.com/museum.htm
- **Jim Thorpe House, Yale**, (918) 387-2815
- **Roger Miller Museum, Erick**, (580) 526-3833 or rogermillermuseum.com
- **Sequoyah's Cabin, Sallisaw**, (918) 775-2413 or okhistory.org
- **Tom Mix Museum & Western Theatre, Dewey**, (918) 534-1555
- **Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch** (Dog Iron Ranch), **Oologah**, (800) 324-9455 or willrogers.com
- **Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore**, (800) 324-9455 or willrogers.com

REGIONAL HISTORY

N. Scott Momaday's oft-used term "memory in the blood" refers to the idea that people can remember their ancestors' suffering and triumph without being told their stories. Just imagine how hearing those stories at one of the state's many regional museums could strengthen memories and connections to home.

Duncan's Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is a world-class facility that brings the historic cattle driving trail to life. "The whole museum is awesome," says Carole Scott, Duncan Chamber of Commerce president. "Cowboys tell you the history of Chisholm Trail. You don't just stand there and read about it." The interactive children's gallery can hold up to four school busloads, and the Chisholm Trail Experience recreates the

JIM ARGO

The Oklahoma History Center opened in November 2005.

Museum Group

State-run museums bring Oklahoma history to life.

The **Oklahoma Historical Society** is a first-rate operation that doesn't leave our story to chance. Charged with archiving and maintaining the state's history since 1893, the state organization administers and oversees the largest collection of museums in Oklahoma. With a total of thirty-two facilities and sites under its umbrella, this amazing museum network includes everything from the **Sod House Museum** in **Aline** to the spectacular new **Oklahoma History Center**. Many offer free admission; all include a one-of-a-kind glimpse into Oklahoma's past. For a complete list, visit okhistory.org.

sounds and sights of the trail. *(580) 252-6692 or onthechisholmtrail.com.*

The **Three Valley Museum** in **Durant** showcases the history of southeast Oklahoma, with a Native American Gallery that highlights area tribes, a recreated downtown, and a transportation exhibit. Durant and Bryan County residents enjoy spotting friends and family in the photographs of downtown and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. *(580) 920-1907 or durantmainstreet.org/museum2.htm.*

- **Arkansas River Historical Society Museum, Catoosa**, (888) 572-7678 or arkansasriver.org
- **Cherokee Strip Museum, Alva**, (580) 327-2030
- **Chisholm Trail Museum and Governor Seay Mansion, Kingfisher**, (405) 375-5176 or okhistory.org
- **Cimarron Heritage Center, Boise City**, (580) 544-3479 or ptsi.net/user/museum
- **Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus**, (580) 482-1044 or okhistory.org
- **No Man's Land Museum, Goodwell**, (580) 349-2670 or okhistory.org
- **Old Greer County Museum & Hall of Fame, Mangum**, (580) 782-2852
- **Oolagah Historical Museum, Oologah**, (918) 443-2790 or oolagah.net
- **Sheerar Museum, Stillwater**, (405) 377-0359 or sheerarmuseum.org
- **Shortgrass Country Museum, Sayre**, (580) 928-5757 or sayreok.net

SPECIAL INTEREST

In Claremore, more than 20,000 unique firearms and artifacts can be found at the **J.M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum**, which houses the world's largest privately owned gun collection. From the Brazilian pistola to a 50-caliber sniper rifle, this place is the silver bullet for any gun enthusiast. *(918) 341-5707 or thegunmuseum.com.*

One of Oklahoma's most historic black towns is also home to the state's only resource center for African American history. **Langston's Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center** contains art, books, and records for viewing and research. *(405) 466-3346 or lunet.edu/lib.*

Northwestern Oklahoma's early reliance on wind power for water is the real reason for the **Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park**. With thirty-six rare and restored windmills dating to 1874, this museum does more than "just put up a bunch of old windmills," says museum director Phyllis Ballew. "We're trying to relate them to the people who live here." *(580) 938-5146 or shattuckwindmillmuseum.org.*

- **14 Flags Heritage Museum, Sallisaw**, (918) 775-2558
- **99s Museum of Women Pilots, Oklahoma City**, (405) 685-9990 or ninety-nines.org/museum.html
- **Oklahoma State Firefighters Museum, Oklahoma City**, (405) 424-3440 or osfa.info/muse.html
- **Oklahoma Museum of Higher Education in Historic Old Central, Stillwater**, (405) 744-2828 or okhistory.org
- **Oklahoma State Capital Publishing Museum, Guthrie**, (405) 282-4123 or okhistory.org
- **Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City**, (580) 765-6108 or okhistory.org
- **Round Barn, Arcadia**, (405) 396-0824 or arcadiaroundbarn.org

Among its many frontier life items, the Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City has a collection of 4,828 mounted buttons.

JOHN JERNIGAN

American Woman: Pam Fleischaker

Oklahoma City writer Pam Fleischaker feels a special connection to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman: Her husband David's parents donated their private collection of American Indian, Southwest, and Taos Society art to the Fred in 1996. "I'm especially happy to see this museum grow into its new elegant—but still accessible—home," she says, noting that Ernest L. Blumenschein's *Taos Valley and Mountain* landscape is her favorite piece. Fleischaker's most recent book, *American Woman: Lost and Found in Oklahoma*, was published in 2001.

'Our small state has not just had a national impact but a global impact on the sport of wrestling.'

—Lee Roy Smith of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum

SPORTS

Stillwater's National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum, the only facility of its kind in the nation, turns thirty this year. "When you consider how many NCAA championships Oklahoma universities have produced, not to mention the individual world and Olympic champions, you can see that our small state has not just had a national impact but a global impact on the sport of wrestling," says Lee Roy Smith, the museum's executive director. *(405) 377-5243 or wrestlinghalloffame.org.*

- **International Gymnastics Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City**, (405) 235-5600 or ighof.com
- **National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, Oklahoma City**, (405) 424-5266 or asasoftball.com/hall_of_fame
- **Oklahoma Sports Museum, Guthrie**, (405) 260-1342 or oklahomasportsmuseum.com

TOYS/MINIATURES

From G.I. Joe to Spiderman, the **Toy and Action Figure Museum** in **Pauls Valley**, opened in October 2005, is the first and only museum of its kind in the world. Its wonders include a large collection of popular culture toys, an Action Figure Hall of Fame, hands-on exhibits for kids of all ages, and a look at how toys are made. *(405) 238-6300 or actionfigure-museum.com.*

- **Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum, Ardmore**, (580) 223-8290
- **Ida Dennie Willis Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys, Tulsa**, (918) 584-6654
- **RS&K Railroad Museum, Sayre**, (580) 928-3525

TRANSPORTATION

Darryl Starbird's National Rod & Custom Car Hall of Fame Museum in **Afton** displays a rotating collection of about fifty one-of-a-kind, custom-built vehicles. Ephemera and memorabilia of unique custom cars since the 1950s are also on display. *(918) 257-8224 or darrylstarbird.com.*

Elk City's National Route 66 Museum chronicles a journey through all eight states along the Mother Road. Recorded histories and personal accounts guide visitors from exhibit to exhibit. *(580) 225-6266 or elkcity.com.*

The **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum** in **Clinton**, designed by Oklahoma City architect Rand Elliott, focuses on all aspects of the historic road, with an audio tour by Route 66 scholar Michael Wallis, cultural artifacts, and a drive-in theater. *(580) 323-7866 or route66.org.*

- **Muscle Car Ranch, Chickasha**, (405) 222-4910 or musclecarranch.com
- **Oklahoma Railway Museum, Oklahoma City**, (405) 424-8222 or oklahomarailwaymuseum.org
- **Railroad Museum of Oklahoma, Enid**, (580) 233-3051

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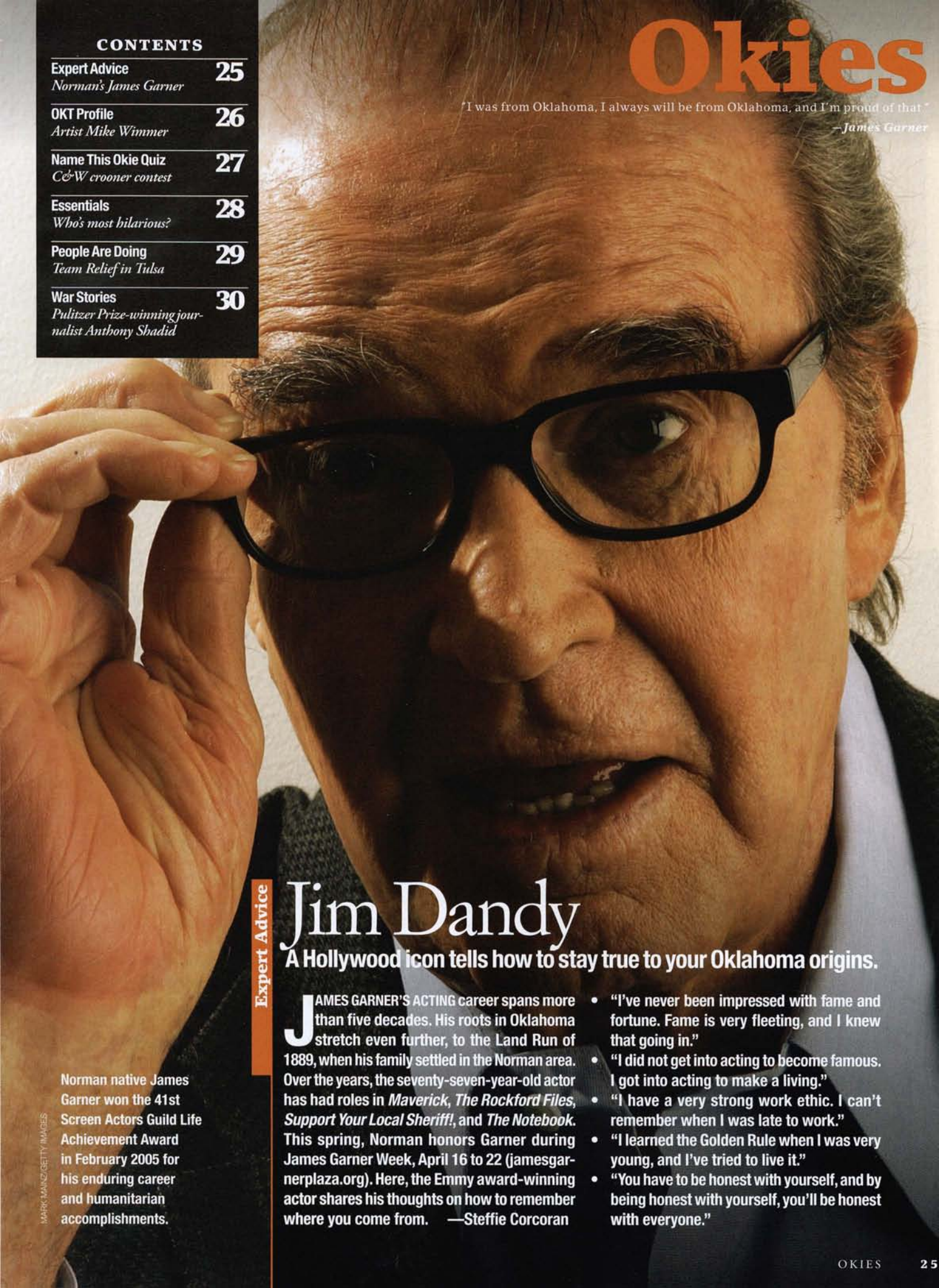
Okies

"I was from Oklahoma, I always will be from Oklahoma, and I'm proud of that."
—*James Garner*



Norman native James Garner won the 41st Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in February 2005 for his enduring career and humanitarian accomplishments.

MARK MAINZ/GETTY IMAGES

Expert Advice

Jim Dandy

A Hollywood icon tells how to stay true to your Oklahoma origins.

JAMES GARNER'S ACTING career spans more than five decades. His roots in Oklahoma stretch even further, to the Land Run of 1889, when his family settled in the Norman area. Over the years, the seventy-seven-year-old actor has had roles in *Maverick*, *The Rockford Files*, *Support Your Local Sheriff!*, and *The Notebook*. This spring, Norman honors Garner during James Garner Week, April 16 to 22 (jamesgarnerplaza.org). Here, the Emmy award-winning actor shares his thoughts on how to remember where you come from. —Steffie Corcoran

- "I've never been impressed with fame and fortune. Fame is very fleeting, and I knew that going in."
- "I did not get into acting to become famous. I got into acting to make a living."
- "I have a very strong work ethic. I can't remember when I was late to work."
- "I learned the Golden Rule when I was very young, and I've tried to live it."
- "You have to be honest with yourself, and by being honest with yourself, you'll be honest with everyone."

"Norman Rockwell has had a huge influence on my pictorial storytelling."
–Mike Wimmer

OKT Profile

Wimmer Takes All

Oklahoma artist **Mike Wimmer** of Norman *has plenty to say about family, education, and a guy named Will Rogers.*

Mike Wimmer is one busy guy. Besides illustrating scores of children's books, Wimmer is an accomplished artist with a host of clients including Celestial Seasonings teas and American Airlines. Wimmer's most recent book, *Theodore*, his second collaboration with former Oklahoma governor Frank Keating, was published in January.

What one Oklahoman would you like to meet? **Will Rogers**. I love his honesty and humor and how he followed his own path to discover his destiny. My grandfather gave me some very sage advice that sounded like it could have come from Will. He said, "Do what you love, because if you love it, you'll get good at it. And if you're good at it, people will pay you for it."

Who are your biggest artistic influences? Narrative artists from early comic books and children's classics. **N.C. Wyeth** was probably one of the earliest influences, with his manly pirates and western heroes.

Who's your favorite client? Probably me. The pay's not good, but I always enjoy the latitude I'm given to experiment, play, and take as much time as necessary. No deadline pressures.

STEVEN WALKER

Among your own work, what's your favorite? The paintings I do of my children, **Eli** and **Lauren**, every year for their birthdays.

What's your artistic philosophy? It's very much like my personal philosophy: Be truthful. Be precise when precision is needed and vague when vague is better. Make everything you do the best you can make it. And don't be afraid to fail. We learn more from our failures than we do from our victories.

When do you work best? I'm a child of the light, not a child of darkness. I like to work by natural light and don't like working at night. It may be more quiet at that time, but I'm tired and hit the sack early.

Who or what is the love of your life? This blond girl I met in the seventh grade at West Junior High School in **Muskogee**. That was thirty-three years ago. After dating her for ten years, I gave in to the fact that this was for eternity. **Carmelita** and I have been married now for twenty-three years.

What makes for a good friend? Sincerity, truthfulness, and compassion.

What never fails to make you mad? Laziness, stupidity, and selfishness get my blood boiling.

Do you have a recurring dream? I'm falling out of the sky and land on the barbs of a cyclone fence, putting out my eyes. Blindness, not just the lack of sight but the lack of vision, scares me.

What's the last place you ate out in Oklahoma? **Misal Bistro** in **Norman**. We had the buffet and the strawberry shortcake.

What's your favorite thing to look at in Oklahoma? The sky is beautiful here. Being in the middle of the fastest-changing weather means the sky is changing all the time. I love our sunsets and sunrises, our very large storm clouds reflecting silver to orange to purple against a clean canvas of blue.

'Quiet, determined, and persistent.'

–Mike Wimmer, when asked to describe himself

What's the best thing about working in Oklahoma? I am native to this soil. Transplant me and I would probably survive, but I could never flourish as I have here. My roots took hold, and I love the soil. Plus I love the space. I don't feel crowded.

What strange talent do you have not many people know about? Seeing into the future.

What does Oklahoma need more of? A greater respect for education. We sell our futures short by neglecting to build a strong foundation. I love our pioneer spirit and sense of self-reliance, but without a deeper devotion to education, we may survive, but we won't be leading anyone.

Little Bit Country

And a whole lot Oklahoma.

Name This Okie Quiz

THIS COUNTRY AND western beauty from Bray released her debut album at age twenty and once toured with Aussie country megastar Keith Urban. While still a teenager, she gained scores of Oklahoma fans, among them Vince Gill and Reba McEntire. "She's one of the best singers I've ever heard," says Mike Owens, director of A&R for Universal South. Visit OklahomaToday.com or check the May/June Name This Okie for the answer. Last issue's Name this Okie was Mickey Mantle. —Brooke Adcox

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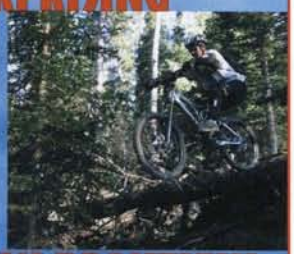
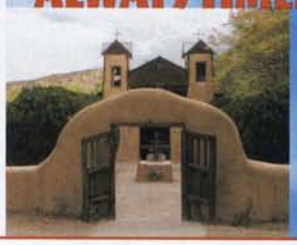


ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL

ALWAYS TIMELESS



Essentials

Comic Relief

Ha! April is National Humor Month, so we asked these Oklahomans to name the most hilarious person they know.

Cindy Chupack of Tulsa, executive producer of *Sex and the City*: "Michael Patrick King [lead executive producer of *Sex and the City*]. If you think his work is poignant and hilarious, you should see him over lunch!"

Jay Cronley, *Tulsa World* staff columnist: "My ex-wife's Aunt Ila, who used to visit people in the hospital and tell them who had died with what they had."

James Garner of Norman: "Stuart Margolin. When we worked together on *The Rockford Files*, he was hysterical. If I had to work with one actor every day for the rest of my life, it would be Stuart."

Argus Hamilton, humorist from Ponca City: "The late, great Edward L. Gaylord. He used to say he could disappoint both parties just by announcing that he was really a Democrat."

Reba McEntire of Chockie: "My makeup artist/hair stylist, Brett Freedman. His humor puts everyone at ease and makes my life a lot more interesting."

Roy D. Mercer, alter ego of Tulsan Brent Douglas: "An old boy I saw one time at Driller Stadium, Cornetto, who makes funny balloon animals."

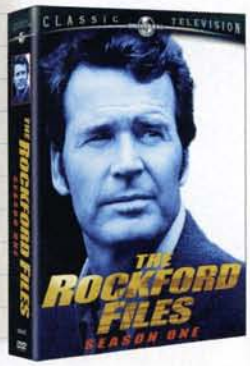
Megan Mullally of Oklahoma City: "My husband, Nick Offerman, because he's smart, fearless, outrageous, and inappropriate. He knows exactly what it takes to make me laugh."

Ron Williams, of KISS radio's morning show in Oklahoma City: "My partner, Jack Elliott. He's funnier off the mic than on the mic. He has a twisted sense of humor that cracks me up."

Get This!

The Rockford Files DVD

Thanks to technological abracadabra, the 1974 premiere season of James Garner's TV show, ***The Rockford Files***, is back with the whole gang—Rockford's father, Rocky; former cellmate, Angel; sometime girlfriend Beth; and a star-studded guest cast—along for the ride. Find out why critics have said *The Rockford Files* is the best private-eye show in television history. $39.98.



VISIT THE MUSEUMS OF HISTORIC GUTHRIE

...A stroll down Oklahoma Avenue is a journey through Oklahoma's past...

OKLAHOMA FRONTIER DRUGSTORE MUSEUM

Explore a vast collection of pharmacy memorabilia and relish the ambience of a bygone era when soda fountains and corner drugstores were the heart of life in Oklahoma's towns. Curiosities abound at this treasured site in the Gaffney Building built in 1890. **214 W. Oklahoma Ave.** ***Open Tue.–Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–4. (405) 282-1895. www.oklahomadrugstoremuseum.com www.drugmuseum.org***

NATIONAL FOUR-STRING BANJO MUSEUM

Celebrate the music, art, and heritage of America's instrument–THE BANJO–at the National Four-String Banjo Museum, a national treasure in downtown Guthrie. **116 E. Oklahoma Ave.** ***Open Tue.–Sat. 10–5, (405) 260-1323. www.banjomuseum.org***

OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL MUSEUM

Discover artifacts and exhibits of the 1889 Land Run, Oklahoma's journey to statehood and Guthrie's historic Carnegie Library. **406 E. Oklahoma Ave.** ***Open Tue.–Sat. 9–5. (405) 282-1889.***

STATE CAPITAL PUBLISHING MUSEUM

Learn about 1800s printing technology, the history of Oklahoma newspapers and early Oklahoma politics, on display in this original 1902 building. **310 W. Harrison Ave.** ***Open Tue.–Sat. 9–5. (405) 282-4123.***

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Promoting the athletic heritage of Oklahoma... while influencing today's youth in a positive manner.

Lose yourself in the exciting careers of Oklahoma's most noted athletes like Jim Thorpe, Mickey Mantle, Troy Aikman, and Shannon Miller. Discover three galleries of memorabilia, including the stunning 9-foot Warren Spahn bronze statue depicting the annual award given to the major league's best left-handed pitcher. **315 W. Oklahoma Ave.** ***(405) 260-1342. www.oklahomasportsmuseum.com***

"This is a small group, but it's a powerful group."
—Tulsa mayor Bill LaFortune on Team Relief, in the **Tulsa World**, *October 2, 2005*

EVAN TAYLOR

People Are Doing

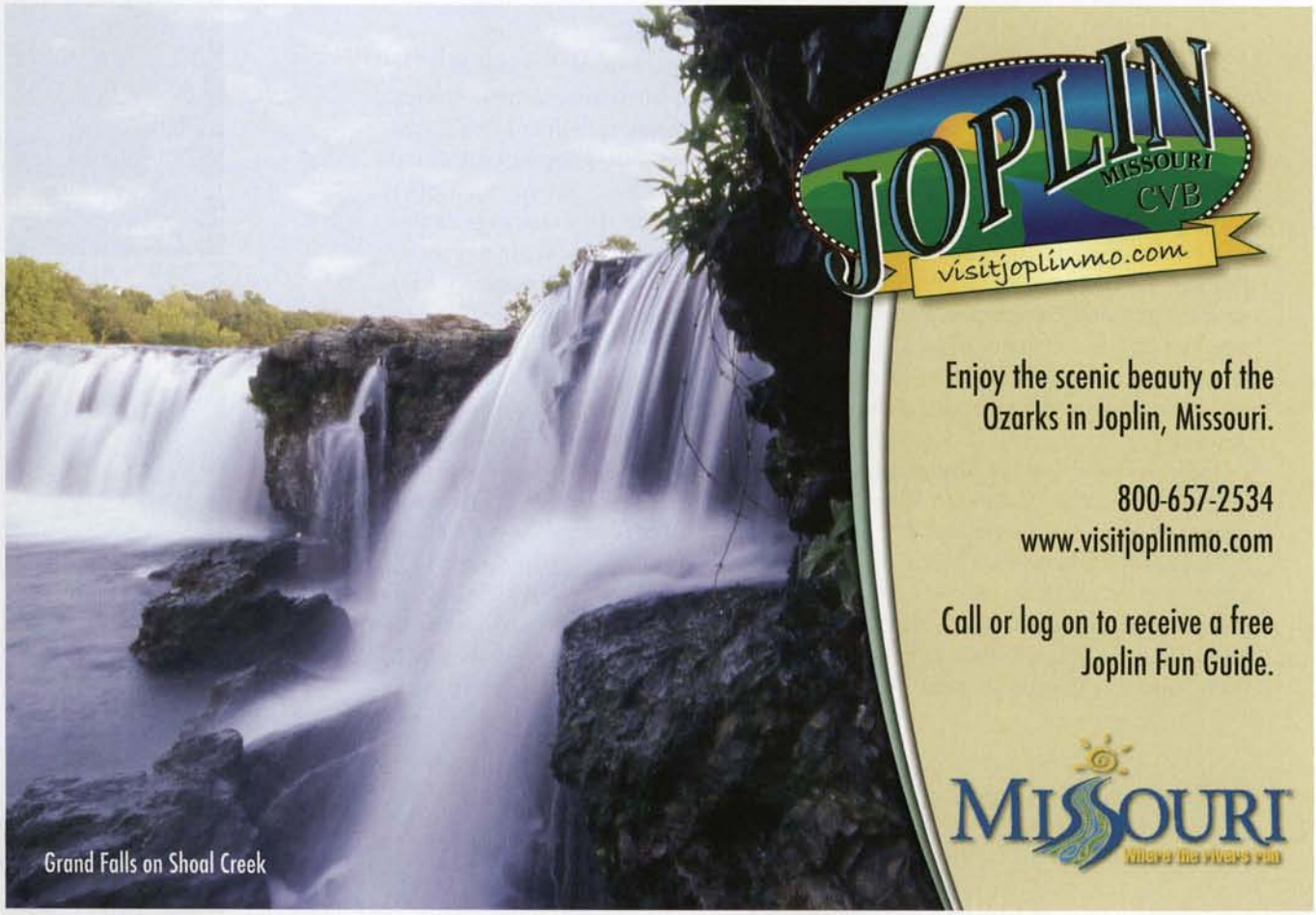
'It's a blessing to the people there, and it's so fulfilling,' says Team Relief coordinator Nina Martino. Team Relief will travel to Long Beach, Mississippi, from March 19 to 24 and April 23 to 28. Volunteers are welcome to attend for $95, which includes lodging, food, and a T-shirt.

THE OKLAHOMA

Standard

Tulsa's Team Relief helps with Hurricane Katrina cleanup.

OKLAHOMANS HAVE A reputation for lending a hand. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf of Mexico and displaced more than 1.5 million Americans. Today, fifty volunteers—through the Tulsa organization **Team Relief** (918/622-4422 or teamrelief.com)—head south once a month to clean up flood debris, replace drywall, and remove limbs. Team Relief got its start when mayor Bill LaFortune announced that Tulsa would focus its efforts on Long Beach, Mississippi; church leader Bill Scheer of Guts Church heeded the call and formed the group, pledging to make monthly trips for at least a year. Volunteers are always welcome. —**Andrea Lopez**



War STORIES

One of several Oklahomans to receive journalism's highest honor, the Pulitzer, Oklahoma City native Anthony Shadid takes comfort in telling the stories of war's human toll.

A FEW DAYS before the New Year rang in, Anthony Shadid was like any other Oklahoman who knows where to find peace and quiet—at a fishing hole.

He quietly sneaked away from his dad's home in Oklahoma City, drove north into Logan County, where the Shadid family owns five acres, and helped his four-year-old daughter Laila hook her line with bait. The thirty-seven-year-old of Lebanese descent stood by to take in the quiet and stillness of the day.

Suddenly, Laila's line bit. Shadid helped her reel in the catch—a bass, no less, that he proudly talked about the next day.

"She's a little fisherwoman," Shadid says excitedly about his daughter.

In the years to come, when she becomes fully articulate, Laila will likely join others from America's journalistic and literary establishments who see her dad as a big fisherman of international news stories. Penning from the turbulent Middle East region as a *Washington Post* staff writer and Middle East correspondent, his stories routinely land on the front page of this venerable capital city newspaper, providing the basis of nonfiction books that have critics going gaga.

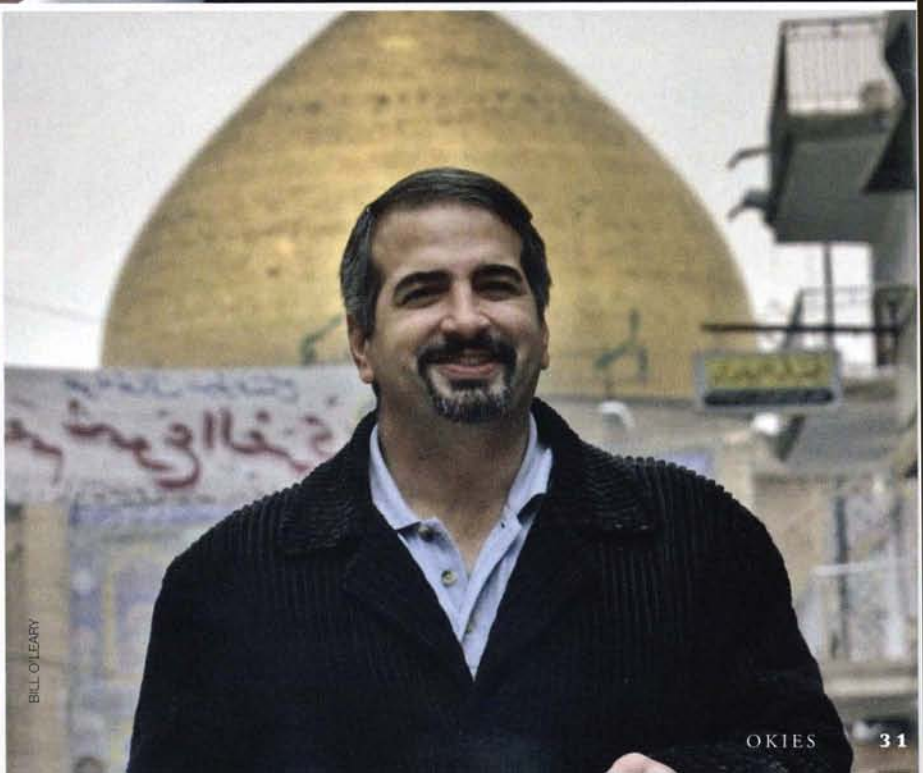
In his October 30, 2005, *New York Times* review of Shadid's most recent book, *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War* (Henry Holt and Company, September 2005) former London *Times* bureau chief Ben Macintyre describes the Oklahoma City native and 2004 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting: "As an Arabic speaker with extensive experience of the Middle East, he has been able to visit places, physically and psychologically, where few other reporters could venture.

By Scott Fitzgerald

WASHINGTON POST

STEVE FANAG

Oklahoma City native Anthony Shadid, 37, won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting. The Arabic-speaking *Washington Post* journalist was recognized for his intimate stories about the Iraqi people during wartime.



BILL O'LEARY

Winner's Circle

Top of Their Game

Oklahoma has been the breeding ground for many national and international journalists, including these eight Pulitzer Prize winners.

1930 · MARQUIS JAMES of Enid, for Biography; *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston*

1938 · MARQUIS JAMES for Biography; *Andrew Jackson, 2 vols.*

1939 · CHARLES G. WERNER of Indiana, for Editorial Cartooning; *Daily Oklahoman*

1960 · VANCE TRIMBLE of Wewoka, for Reporting; honored for a Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance series of articles exposing nepotism in the United States Congress

1965 · JOHN BERRYMAN of McAlester, for Poetry; *77 Dream Songs*

1969 · N. SCOTT MOMADAY of Lawton, for Fiction; *House Made of Dawn*

1974 · DANIEL J. BOORSTIN of Tulsa, for History; *The Americans: The Democratic Experience*

1996 · CHARLES PORTER IV of Stillwater, for Spot News Photography; recognized for his freelance photographs taken after the Oklahoma City bombing

2004 · ANTHONY SHADID of Oklahoma City, for International Reporting; noted for his *Washington Post* articles, which captured the voices and emotions of the Iraqi people during war

He converses equally easily with the Texas private and the Islamic insurgent, crossing the divide between Sunni, Shiite, and American to extract the individual stories that give human contour to the chaos."

During a busy weekday when he was editing the day's copy coming from his reporters in the field, David Hoffman, assistant managing editor on the foreign news desk, didn't hesitate a moment to comment about Shadid's work.

"He is very good at conceptualizing his material, using his articles to tell stories with a long trajectory. He uses narrative to take the reader on a journey. I think of Anthony's work as some kind of magic and ask myself, how does he do it? If you read his stories, you see that it is not effortless. He pours himself into the reporting and writing. His stories are original—fully developed characters, dialogue, events, facts—from top to bottom. It may look effortless, but in fact it is art and requires both inspiration and a ton of hard work," Hoffman says.

THE DESIRE TO achieve and the gift to do something with the written word was evident early during Shadid's formative years at Heritage Hall, a college preparatory school in Oklahoma City.

"Shadid was an exceptional student and writer early on. It's no surprise he won the Pulitzer," says Lynne Roller, a former teacher who taught English at Heritage Hall for nineteen years.

Another faculty member, social studies chairman John Powell, who has been at Heritage Hall since 1979, echoes Roller's perceptions.

"He clearly showed promise at a young age. I don't think anyone who knew or taught him is shocked by the level of achievement he has earned," Powell says. "I distinctly remember him being interested in the world. You come to notice that kind of thing from teaching so many students over the years."

The Best and the Brightest

Anthony Shadid, joined by his daughter Laila and mother Rhonda, accepted an award from the Overseas Press Club in November 2005. His most recent book, **Night Draws Near**, made the **New York Times**'s list of 100 most notable books published in 2005.

'He converses equally easily with the Texas private and the Islamic insurgent, crossing the divide between Sunni, Shiite, and American.'

—Ben Macintyre, London *Times*

Shadid knew at age fifteen or sixteen that he wanted to be a journalist. Among his early endeavors, he helped start Heritage Hall's student newspaper, the *Hall Monitor*, and participated in a number of competitive student activities.

Classmate Eugene Mitchell, who graduated in 1986 with Shadid in what Heritage Hall director of communications Audra Wilson described as a "tightly knit class of fifty-seven students," remembers his friend as a tough athlete who played football, wrestled, and led the debate team.

"Most of us who went to school with Anthony aren't surprised by his tenacity and success. This is someone who is very focused and has a great sense of humor, which I think you need where he's been," says Mitchell, now the regional vice president of external affairs for San Diego Gas and Electric and Southern California Gas.

The tenacity to which Mitchell refers is best exemplified by what Shadid did once he graduated from Heritage Hall: He studied Arabic at the University of Wisconsin and

later did a fellowship in intensive Arabic at the American University in Cairo from 1991 to 1992.

"I started from scratch," says Shadid about deciding to learn an ancient language in his undergraduate years. It was a smart decision that paid big dividends down the road. Seymour Topping, former administrator of the Pulitzer prizes and former chair of the five-member panel of Pulitzer Prize international reporting jurors, oversaw Shadid's nomination for the prestigious award in 2004.

"I thought Anthony was deserving of a Pulitzer Prize. He's an example of courage in a difficult situation. His knowledge of Arabic and communication of language allowed him to be able to get close to the Iraqis and relate their experiences," Topping says.

Shadid did graduate work in Middle East studies at Columbia University in New York from 1993 to 1994, later joining the Associated Press as its Middle East correspondent in Cairo from 1995 to 1999. He then returned to the United States to become the news editor of the AP's Los Angeles bureau.

"The Middle East region held a fascination for me. I had a mixture of family history and personal interest, and I knew the AP was the quickest vehicle to get over there," Shadid says.

While in Los Angeles in 2001—before the September 11 attacks—Shadid penned his first book based on his years in Cairo, *Legacy of the Prophet: Despots, Democrats, and the New Politics of Islam* (Westview Press).

"With the trained eye and skill of a seasoned reporter and the sensitivity and depth of a scholar analyzing under the surface, Shadid has produced a brilliant and refreshing work. A must-read for anyone who wants to better understand Islam and its humanity," Nora Boustany of the *Washington Post* wrote on the book's back cover.

Shadid then worked for two years in Washington with the *Boston Globe*, where he covered diplomacy and the State Department, before coming on board with the *Washington Post* in January 2003.

In addition to winning the Pulitzer, Shadid's stories from Iraq have earned him the American Society of Newspaper Editors Award for deadline news reporting and the Overseas Press Club of America's Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper or wire-service reporting from abroad. In 2002, Shadid was awarded the George Polk Award for foreign reporting for a series of dispatches he wrote from the Middle East while working for the *Boston Globe*.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Anthony Shadid, right, accepts the Pulitzer Prize from Columbia University president Lee C. Bollinger at the May 24, 2004, awards ceremony held in New York City. In January 2006, his book *Night Draws Near* was named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Closer to home, Shadid is a recently added selection committee member of the Oklahoma City National Memorial's "Reflections of Hope" award, given annually to a person or group whose work demonstrates to a community of any size the value of hope in the face of political violence. Soon an annual Heritage Hall writing award will bear his name, and he's been chosen to speak at the school's commencement this spring.

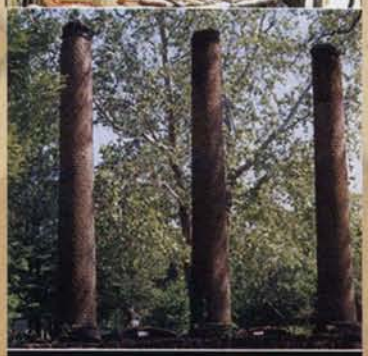
ABOUT A WEEK before Shadid returned to the United States and eventually Oklahoma, where he spent a few days here for the holidays, he filed a story with the *Post* from his Beirut, Lebanon, apartment about the funeral of Gebran Tueni, a prominent Lebanese journalist, lawmaker, and opponent of Syria, who was the victim of a December 12, 2005, car bombing. In an outpouring of grief and fury, tens of thousands of Lebanese transformed their grief and anger over Tueni's tragic death into a protest against the Syrian government, whom they blame for deliberately killing opponents, Shadid writes.

Amid the hostility and raw emotions, Shadid stays with the activity from early morning through late afternoon, filling up his notebooks, interviewing bystanders, and quoting family member remarks delivered at Tueni's service and eulogy.

"Beirut Funeral Kindles Fury Toward Syria," by Anthony Shadid, runs in the *Post*'s World and Middle East section on December 15. It's a remarkable story, written in a way that lures a reader into motion, asking the writer to deliver more. He does.

Shortly after Shadid files his story with the *Post*, he talked about the inherent risks associated with his job. Shadid, who was shot in the shoulder on Easter 2002, most likely by an Israeli soldier while covering the Israeli siege of Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah, says the injury has made him very aware of the perils his career affords.

But, he says, "Some stories are important enough to go after, regardless of the risk."



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Tahlequah, OK

Nestled in the beautiful Oklahoma foothills of the Ozark Mountains is the Cherokee Heritage Center – a place to learn about Cherokee traditions through an unforgettable, interpretative experience. The Cherokee Heritage Center not only teaches history and culture, it also offers adventure, family events, a living museum, a theater, shopping, Cherokee games, genealogy and entertainment. Call today to visit the Cherokee Heritage Center, the perfect spot to discover a true representation of Cherokee life.

Cherokee National Museum features the nationally acclaimed Trail of Tears Exhibit, rotating exhibits and competitive art shows. The Museum highlights specific aspects of Cherokee history and culture.

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Adams Corner Rural Village is a reconstruction of a late 19th Century rural Cherokee community as it may have appeared after European contact. The village's seven buildings are designed and decorated to represent the lifestyles of Cherokee people during this time. Connected to Adams Corner is Heritage Farm, home to several animals common in this period.

Cherokee Family Research Center provides research material and assistance for tracing Cherokee ancestry.

Museum Store features handcrafted Cherokee jewelry, pottery, authentic arts and crafts, books, postcards, music and a variety of souvenirs.

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Culture

"I have seen the grand and irresistible march of civilization."
—George Catlin

One of Albert Bierstadt's first western paintings, the circa-1860s *Multnomah Falls* depicts the Columbia River Gorge east of Portland, Oregon. It is on display at the After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871 exhibit at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa.

Exhibit

New Territories

A Gilcrease Museum exhibit shows the beauty of the West's untamed wilderness.

THERE ARE FEW archetypes more enduring to our cultural consciousness than the American West. In Tulsa, a Gilcrease Museum exhibit captures the sweeping romantic vistas of our frontier landscape.

After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871 includes 115 pieces created by men who captured the beauty of our untamed country in enduring works of art.

"Lewis and Clark had only rudimentary drawing skills, so all they could do was write descriptions of what they saw," says senior curator Gary Hood. "Pictures, of course, say a thousand words."

The paintings, lithographs, and engravings in the exhibit tell important stories about Oklahoma and the American West and include works by George Catlin, John James Audubon, and Thomas Moran. —Kimberly Mauck

After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871 runs through April 9. 1400 North Gilcrease Museum Road in Tulsa. (918) 596-2700 or gilcrease.org.

"I love cats because I enjoy my home, and little by little, they become its visible soul." —*Jean Cocteau*

Letter From Pocola

Here, Kitty Kitty

In the second installment of his column, Doug Kelley and The Girl bring home their first cat.

WHEN THE GIRL and I got married and moved to Pocola, we discovered the house that was to become our Home Sweet Home needed some work. We discovered, for instance, that we could not run the refrigerator and the microwave at the same time without tripping the circuit breaker.

So we called in the expert. Tony Newman, who owns Bi-State Electric in Pocola, spent the morning putting in a new breaker box and running new wiring. Just before lunchtime, he said the job was almost complete, but he needed one more junction box from his shop.

"I'll swing back by this evening after dinner and finish up," he said.

About one o'clock, he pulled into the driveway, part in hand.

"I thought you were coming back after dinner," I said.

Tony looked puzzled. "I did," he said.

"I thought you said this evening."

"It is."

Country living, of course, requires animals, and we were off to a good start. We had two dogs, a well-behaved cockapoo named Rascal belonging to The Girl and an untrained mutt named Rascal I brought with me. That's right, two Rascals, a certain sign, when we first met, that we were made for each other.

For large livestock, we had Bosco, the colt watching our every move from behind the backyard fence. Bosco apparently watched the Rascals and thought he was a dog, too, judging by the way he followed us around. The house came with a decrepit old barn which also needed work, repairs made more difficult by the fact that every time I drew back my hammer to swing at a nail, I would hit Bosco in the nose.

The only thing missing was a cat. You can't have a farm, or even a barn, without one.

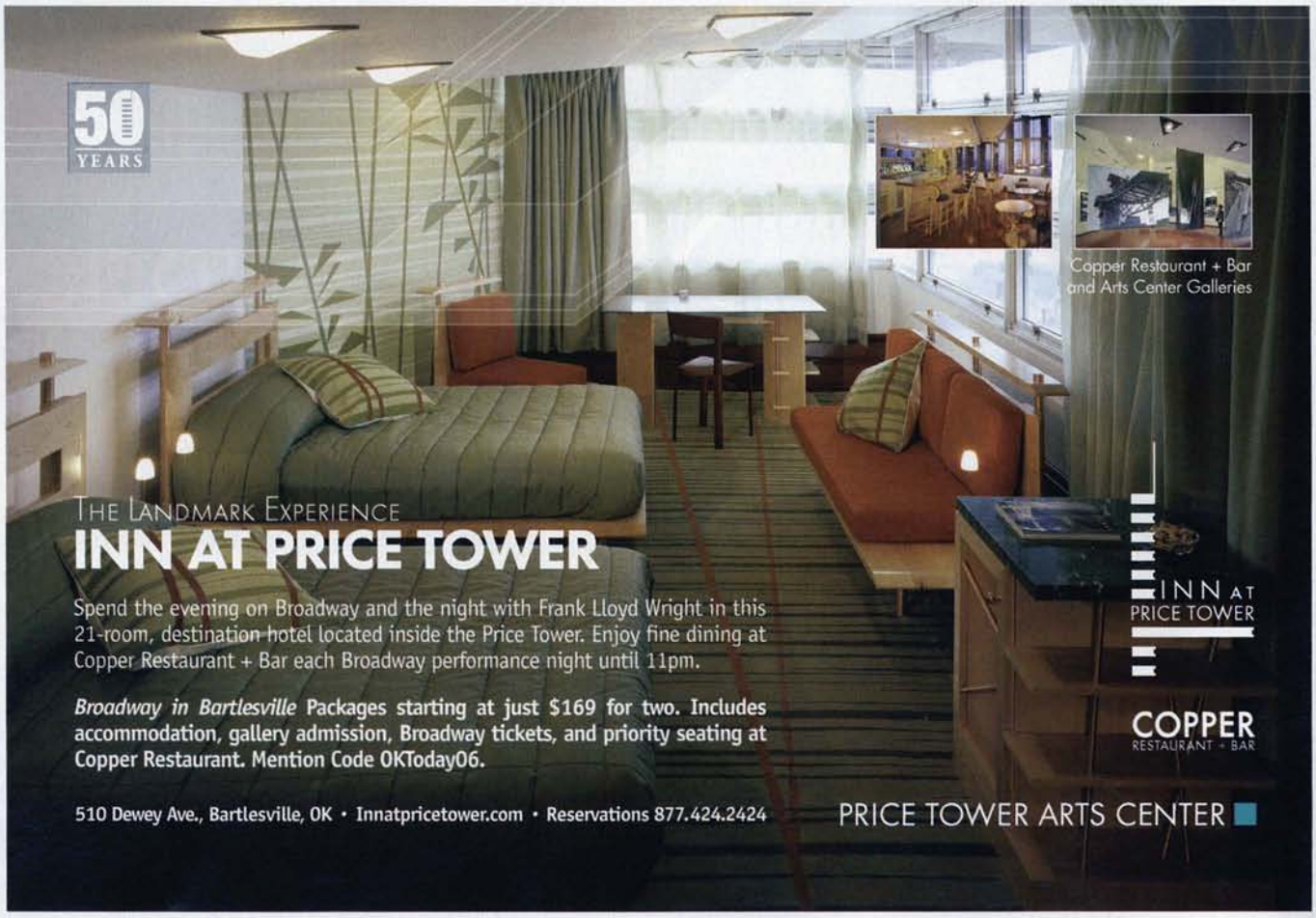
One spring day it started to rain, and it didn't stop for three days. When the skies finally cleared, The Girl and I, weary of being house-bound, went for a walk. A half-mile up the road, we heard a plaintive, familiar-sounding meow.

Stepping down off the road, I reached into a washed-out bank in the ditch and pulled out a small black cat, not much more than a kitten. I recognized it as the cat I had seen meandering up the road three days earlier, just before the rain started.

"Poor little thing," we said.

Neither of us had ever owned a cat, but this one seemed nice enough, and hungry, so we carried it home.

We called her Motor, after the finely tuned



sound of her purr. Motor was a small cat, like the average model at two-thirds scale, slender and sleek. She was a great cat for noncat people such as ourselves, never jumping on our laps or being otherwise obnoxious. She did not run from us, either, not minding if we picked her up but never one to initiate the contact. It was years before she rubbed against my leg.

It wasn't that Motor was afraid of us. She was just shy. If we had company, she would leave the yard altogether and climb high into a tree across the fence and not come down, sometimes all day, until the coast was clear.

We eventually had another reason for her name. One winter day she appeared with her tail cut almost cleanly off, to about a three-inch length. The vet said she most likely had been sitting on the warm car engine, too close to the radiator fan, when we started up.

She looked a little odd with her short tail, but she was a good mouser, keeping us supplied with little presents deposited at the kitchen door for our approval. What more, after all, can you ask of a farm cat?

MATTHEW L. AMBRE/GETTY IMAGES

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Learn About This

"Once the party begins, relax, have fun, and be flexible."
—Leilani Stendebach

Sunday Soiree

Seven segg-gestions for an Oklahoma backyard Easter hunt

THIS SPRING, THROW AN EGG-CELENT BACKYARD EASTER BASH USING THESE SEVEN TIPS THAT WILL KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY FROM GETTING TOO SCRAMBLED.

Egg-clectic Art

Why not twist the traditional with a tip from Martha Stewart? **Vinyl adhesive tape** can be used to make fun designs on dyed eggs. Cut shapes out of the tape—the state of Oklahoma, perhaps?—then firmly rub the design on the egg. Dye the egg and let it dry. When you remove the tape, a one-of-a-kind design remains.

Deck the Yard

Oklahoma City event planner **Leilani Stendebach** recommends using pastel yellow, pink, and green for a color scheme. "I would also have balloons that look like Easter eggs to hand out as children leave," she says.

The Hunt

Plastic eggs can easily be stuffed with candy, small toys, and money. Make sure kids of all ages can find and reach them. Want to challenge older children? Wait until after sunset and conduct an egg hunt in the dark.

Good Eats

Try a juicy, honey-kissed ham from Tulsa's **the Hamlet** (888/420-4267; hamlethams.com) to accompany your deviled eggs. These precooked, spiral-cut hams can be shipped all over the country. Picky eaters? Stendebach says hot dogs and chips should satisfy young taste buds.

Container, Thing Contained

Create eye-catching, practical party favors by decorating inexpensive baskets with ribbon, says Stendebach. These containers can be used as both table centerpieces and egg totes and are available at all **Hobby Lobby** stores (hobbylobby.com).

Location, Location, Location

"In Oklahoma, always, always, always, have a **back-up plan**," says Stendebach. Even though the backyard is a great egg hunt venue, make sure all your guests can easily relocate indoors in case of bad weather.

Keep on Movin'

"Kids get bored quickly," Stendebach says. Make sure you have **plenty of activities** planned to entertain your youngest guests. Stendebach recommends egg decorating and balloon tosses.

—Brooke Adcox

CHRISTOPHER LEE

Get This!

Personalized Pet Canvas

Does your companion animal have you in stitches? Commemorate Spot with a custom needlepoint canvas from **Needle in a Haystack** in Oklahoma City. Artist Chris LeBoeuf creates these needlepoint-ready acrylic canvas paintings for $195 and up. Once stitched, the canvases can be made into pillows, tapestries, and comforters. 6465 Avondale Drive in Oklahoma City. (405) 840-2609.

P.R. BROWN

New Media

Here *and* Now

The concert, play, and books of the moment.

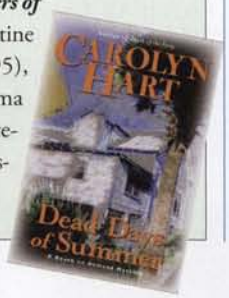
VINCE, TOMMY, NIKKI, and Mick return to the Oklahoma stage during the **Red, White, and Crüe tour** March 30 at the Tulsa Convention Center. Join Motley Crüe for a taste of bad boys grown up and gone good—sort of. Tickets, $45 to $69.50. (918) 584-2000 or carsonattractions.com.

PAUL KOLNIK

Based on the 1988 John Waters film, this stage version of ***Hairspray***, about a teenager with big ambitions, will convince you a hair product can indeed change your life. March 21 through 26 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. Tickets, $15 to $65. (918) 596-7111 or tulsapac.com.

Mystery and History

In March, Oklahoma City's Carolyn Hart brings fans her seventeenth Death on Demand novel, ***Dead Days of Summer*** (HarperCollins, $23.95). Yukon native Dayna Dunbar's debut novel, ***The Saints and Sinners of Okay County*** (Ballantine Books, 2003, $13.95), is the third Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma statewide reading and discussion selection.



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Making Your Creativity Count: Become the Writer You've Always Wanted to Be. Friday-Sunday, April 28-30. Learn to transform your ideas into lively, effective writing with award winning New Mexico author, journalist and photographer, **Sharon Niederman**. Whatever your experience as a writer, you'll benefit from sessions on making writing a priority, packaging your ideas, recording your dreams, experiences and stories, and developing your unique, irresistible voice. Sharon is the author of six non-fiction books and a recent novel, *Return to Abo*. Fee: $350.

Exploring with Photography. Thursday-Sunday, May 4-7. Explore the beautiful Hi-Lo country of northeastern New Mexico with *New Mexico Magazine* photo and travel editor **Steve Larese**. Climb volcanoes, explore out of the way places, and enjoy beautiful sunsets and starry nights as you hone your photography skills with your film or digital camera. In addition to travel photography, we'll focus on photographing people, art, architecture, food and other objects. Open to all skill levels. Fee: $350. Includes supplies.

Creativity Week. Sunday-Saturday, May 21-27. Jicarilla Apache artist and potter **Shelden Nunez-Velarde** will lead participants through the process of making micaceous clay pottery, from preparing the clay, to shaping pots and vessels to firing them in the traditional way. This workshop is open to adults and young people, twelve and older. Fee: $500/person or $475/person for two registering together.

Fees include tuition, double occupancy room and meals.

Game

Their city ravaged by natural disaster, the New Orleans Hornets became the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets, a serendipitous pairing that matched one mayor's vision with one team's quandary. Now, the newest sensation in downtown Oklahoma City has everyone buzzing, and basketball is the name of the game.

By Greg Echlin

WHILE RELAXING, GEORGE Shinn displays the boyish enthusiasm Oklahomans have come to know in a few short months. The owner of the National Basketball Association's New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets sat on a stool outside the concession area with his wife Denise prior to the November 9, 2005, game in Oklahoma City. Beneath the seats at the Ford Center, they weren't far from the court and the din of music as the Hornets warmed up to play against the visiting Orlando Magic.

There are several reasons Shinn was aflutter: 1. In his first visit to Oklahoma City, NBA Commissioner David Stern had commanded all the media attention only a few minutes earlier during a news conference; 2. The crowd for the second regular season game in Oklahoma City was close to filling up the Ford Center for the tip-off; 3. The Hornets were one win away from their third victory in four games, in contrast to an 0-8 start the previous season; or 4. His hot dog was cooked precisely the way he likes it—well-done in a steamed bun.

"Look at this!" he says with a glint, pointing to the editorial page of *The Oklahoman*. Earlier in the day, Shinn had read the front page, the sports pages, and the business pages, but until now, he had missed the picture of himself, arms evangelically raised on the basketball court before the regular-season Oklahoma City opener eight days earlier.

KELLY KERR/TULSA WORLD

On September 21, 2005, owner George Shinn announced the New Orleans Hornets would be temporarily relocating to Oklahoma City. Oklahomans quickly bought season tickets.

It could be that Shinn's revelation had come ten weeks earlier, when Oklahoma City extended a hand to his team beset by tragedy. In his wildest dreams, Shinn could not have imagined that the Hornets and Oklahoma would result in such a great mix while the situation in New Orleans remained tenuous at best. For someone like Shinn, who has owned the Hornets since their beginnings in Charlotte as an expansion franchise in 1988 before their move to New Orleans in 2002, it was perfectly understood that he was more accustomed to Cajun red pepper than Oklahoma red clay.

Having witnessed what his city had endured ten years earlier, Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett knew the importance of extending a helping hand in the face of tragedy. He'd also worked in local television as a sports anchor and reporter, involved in firsthand coverage of major downtown sporting events at the Cox Business Services Convention Center (when it used to be known as the Myriad) and more recently at the Ford Center.

Cornett understood the big-league setting and always believed in the potential of Oklahoma City as a big-league city. All it took was a matter of getting through to others, and Cornett set out to do just that when elected mayor in March 2004.

Five months after Cornett took his new post, while attending the Republican National Convention in New York, he introduced himself to NBA Commissioner David Stern and National Hockey League Commissioner Gary Bettman. More conversations followed in subsequent visits, most recently in April 2005, when Cornett was in New York for media appearances for the tenth anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. While there, he made a special visit to Stern.

"I had dialogue established with Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Bettman

LAYNE MURDOCH/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

On

Forward Desmond Mason, a former Oklahoma State University basketball player, goes head to head with Samuel Dalembert of the Philadelphia 76ers during the December 2, 2005, game at the Oklahoma City Ford Center.

Community

They *Love* It!

Four Hornets share their views on life in Oklahoma.

Ashley Deaton, Honeybee Manager and Choreographer

"The fans here in Oklahoma cheer so loud that the building shakes. I know how hard the Honeybees work, and the support and adoration that we've received makes it all worth it."

Kirk Snyder, Guard

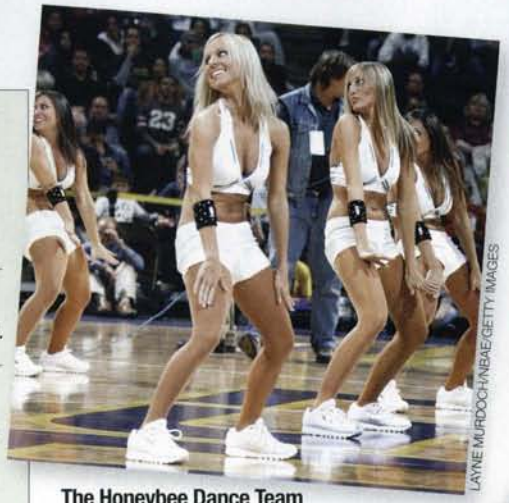
"For me, my favorite thing about Oklahoma is obviously the game. We are very supported here. We have over 19,000 people in the arena, and that is a lot. Off the court, it is also the people. They value our privacy so much and make it real easy to play basketball for Oklahoma City."

Desmond Mason, Forward

"I used to drive an hour from Stillwater to go eat at Ted's. So being back here, Ted's was probably number one. I hit it pretty quick when I got back in town."

Byron Scott, Head Coach

"I love being in Oklahoma. I love the city, I love the people. I had never been to Oklahoma before, so I tried to reserve judgment until I got here. I've been very pleased with the fans and the people. It is just a very, very nice place to be. The people seem to always want to say 'Hello, we're glad you are here.' We see hospitality everywhere we go, be it a restaurant or department store or grocery store, and genuine concern about how we are doing and how we are adjusting. The good people of Oklahoma City really make this state go. It has been a tremendous three or four months so far. We hope it continues."



LAYNE MURDOCH/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

The Honeybee Dance Team

SUE OGROCKI/AP PHOTO

Speedy Claxton makes a slam dunk at the November 1, 2005, Hornets game.

LAYNE MURDOCH/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

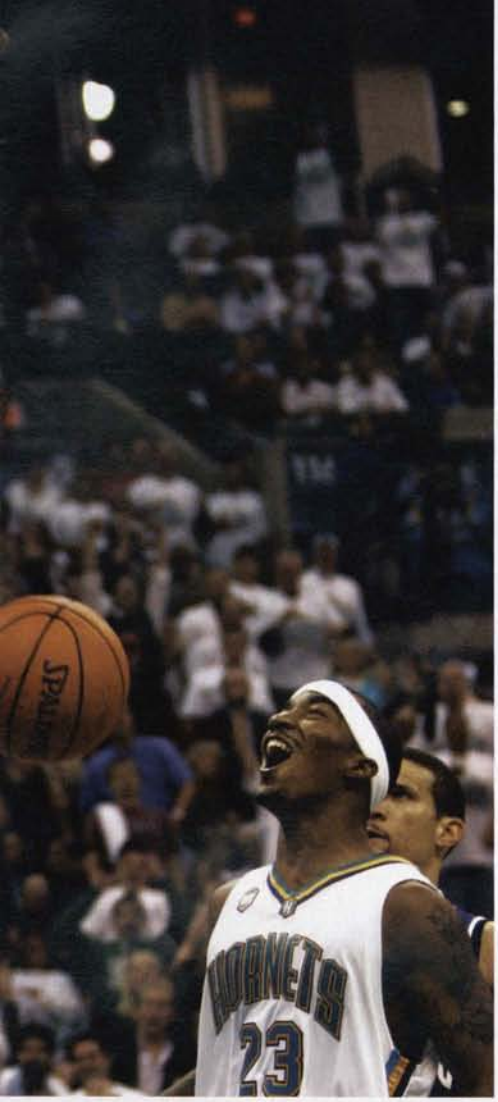
Kai and Darren Harwood of Norman

SUE OGROCKI/AP PHOTO

Mick Cornett and George Shinn

NBA PHOTOS

Hornets head coach Byron Scott



about Oklahoma City being ready to be a major-league city and was trying to convince them that we were," says Cornett. "They were impressed and liked Oklahoma City, but there was no inclination that Oklahoma City was about to get a team."

The acquaintance between Cornett and Stern came in handy when, tragically, the commissioner was forced to make a recommendation regarding the Hornets' 2005-06 home games in the wake of the devastation left in New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina.

"We thought the conditions were right for Oklahoma City and suggested to George Shinn that he consider it, because the mayor in our view was appropriately sensitive," Stern said to the press during his Oklahoma City visit. "[Cornett's] opening was, 'We're a city that knows tragedy, and we would really like to reach out to our brothers in New Orleans as a temporary facility.'"

Stern also knew there wasn't another available modern building in the country better equipped to handle the needs of an NBA team than the Ford Center, which opened in 2002.

'They offered us housing at no cost to our employees, and I was deeply touched by that.'

—Hornets owner George Shinn

Once it became apparent that Oklahoma City had an excellent shot at putting up the Hornets for at least one season—and maybe longer—it dawned on Cornett what this could mean for his native city.

"If you've lived in Oklahoma City—which has never been a major-league city—then all of a sudden your status as a minor-league city is about to change after more than 115 years, that is an eye-opening moment. It causes you to sit down and take note," says the forty-seven-year-old mayor. "Following that, we wondered, 'What do we need to do from an organizational standpoint to make this happen?'"

The first answer meant providing Hornets employees a basic element of survival. "One of my primary needs at the time was housing for our people, because a large percentage of our employees were homeless," says Shinn from the Hornets' downtown Oklahoma City office. "They [the business community and Oklahoma officials in state and municipal offices] offered us housing at no cost to us for our employees, and I was deeply touched by that."

After the team was positioned to move, the next question was: Would Oklahoma City fans live up to what Cornett envisioned as a major-league city with bigtime attendance figures, and on short notice? With season ticket sales serving as an early gauge, the fans answered by hitting a home run.

Two weeks into the season, *SportsBusiness Journal* released figures that placed Oklahoma City as the NBA's sixth-highest team in season ticket sales in a league of thirty. It left Stern flabbergasted. "It's ridiculous. It can't be done in such a short period of time," he says. In the days and weeks ahead, both Stern and Shinn received a crash course on the can-do attitude of Oklahomans.

NEITHER THE PRODUCTIVE turnstile count nor crowd intensity comes as a surprise to Hornets swingman Desmond Mason. The Waxahachie, Texas, native played his college basketball home games in Gallagher-Iba Arena at OSU from 1997 to 2000. Before Mason was traded to the Hornets from Milwaukee on October 26, 2005, he felt from afar that Oklahoma City was ripe for a team like the Hornets.

"Looking at the situation, I thought that Oklahoma would definitely be a place that could accommodate an NBA team. I didn't really know about the Ford Center, which is a wonderful arena, but I knew that the fan base would be there because of the huge basketball fans they have at Tulsa, Oklahoma State, and the University of Oklahoma," says Mason, who never stepped into "the Hive"—slang for the Hornets' home court—until after the trade. The thunderous greeting he received in his first appearance in early November convinced him even more that Oklahoma is ready.

To the surprise of NBA experts, who didn't expect much improvement from a team that won only eighteen of its eighty-two games last season, Mason joined a team that has provided better entertainment on the floor. The Hornets didn't win their third game of the season a year ago until January 8, 2005. By January 30 this season, they had won twenty-two games out of forty-two and had a chance to make the playoffs.

On January 31, Commissioner Stern announced that the Hornets would play thirty-five home games at the Ford Center, six in New Orleans Arena. For him, the swift and efficient move to Oklahoma is one of the great stories in sports. From an Oklahoma perspective, it's the greatest step to the big leagues. Or as Stern says it, simply, "Oklahoma City is a major-league city."

Home Schedule

For Hornets tickets, visit Ticketmaster.com or any Ticketmaster outlet.

MARCH	APRIL
6: Phoenix, 7 p.m.	5: Golden State, 7 p.m.
10: Indiana, 7 p.m.	7: Toronto, 7 p.m.
12: New Jersey, 6 p.m.	10: Cleveland, 7 p.m.
23: Houston, 7 p.m.	12: Seattle, 7 p.m.
31: Memphis, 7 p.m.	14: Utah, 7 p.m.

Jay Haas • Ben Crenshaw
Greg Norman • Craig Stadler
Tom Kite • Hale Irwin • Mark Hayes
Fuzzy Zoeller • Raymond Floyd
Tom Watson • Curtis Strange
Doug Tewell • Gil Morgan

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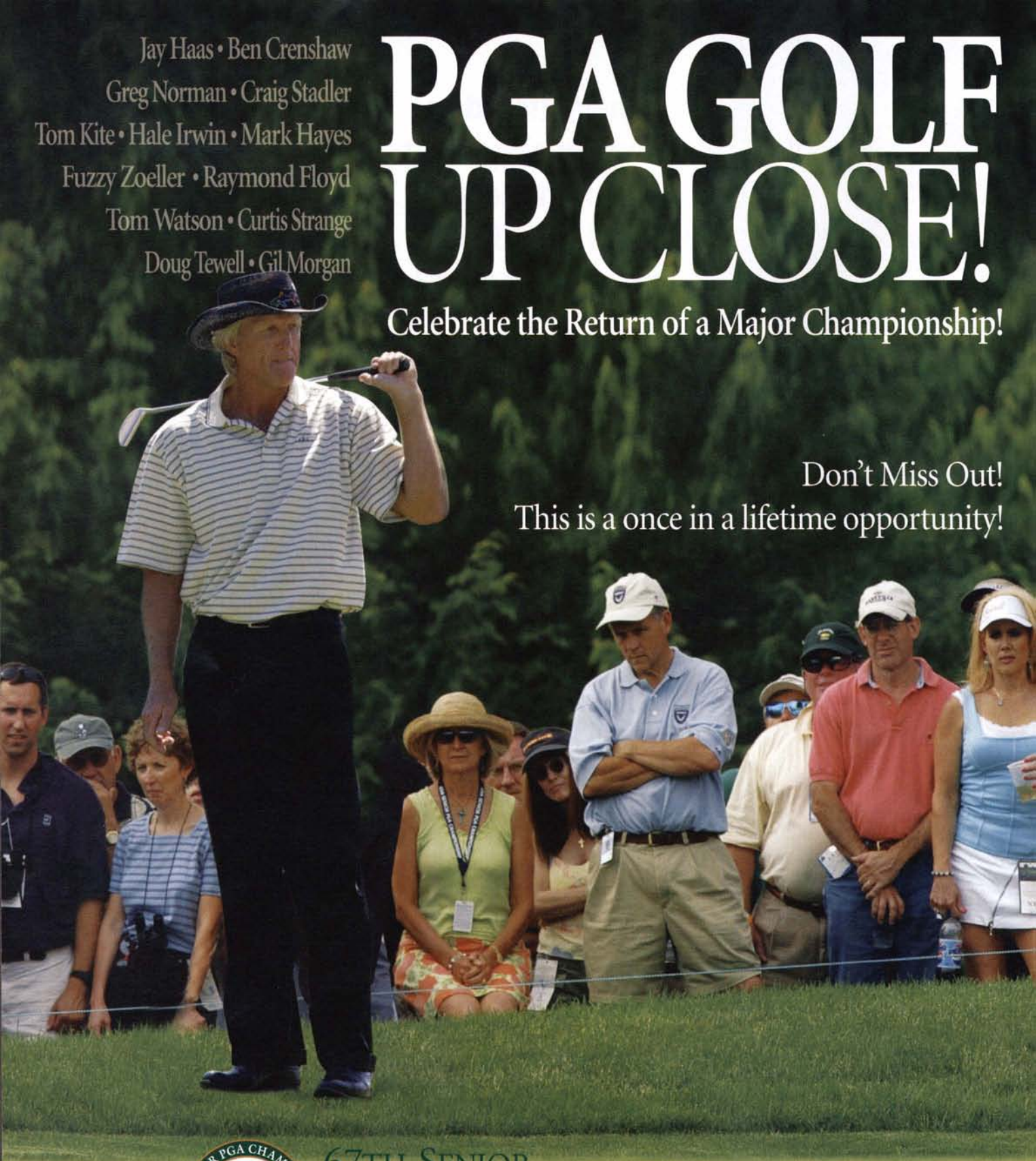

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A horizon that says home

Outside

"Growing up in Muskogee, I developed a love for that part of Oklahoma known as the western Ozarks." — *John Nickel of the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve*

HARVEY PAYNE

The J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve in eastern Oklahoma is the largest private conservation area in the Ozark Mountains. The Illinois River runs along the scenic property, which includes the Cookson Hills and a number of spring-fed creeks.

Secret Scenic

Born Again

The Nickel Preserve has ecology under control.

CONTRARY TO WHAT WE SAW statewide in January, burning acres of Oklahoma prairie and forest isn't necessarily a bad thing. Fire can be just the tonic for an overburdened landscape, and the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve in eastern Oklahoma is a case in point. Donated in 2000 to the Nature Conservancy by Muskogee native John Nickel, founder of Greenleaf Nursery in Tahlequah, the 15,000-acre former cattle ranch had suffered overgrowth for decades due to "fire exclusion," contributing to a loss of native plant and animal species. Controlled burns in the preserve, most recently 2,200 acres in fall 2005, account for the welcome return of historically correct biological conditions. Says preserve manager Chris Wilson, "Being able to recreate what once was here is our goal at the Nickel Preserve."

—Louisa McCune-Elmore

The preserve is located ten miles northeast of Tahlequah. Two public hiking trails can be accessed at the headquarters. Hunting, fishing, and camping are not allowed on the property. (918) 456-7601.

Gardener Spotlight

Growth Spurts

Horticulturist Steve Upson gives a green thumbs up to gardening with kids.

ONCE SURE TO earn children a scolding, digging in the dirt has become a valuable learning experience in schools and community programs across the state.

Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation horticulturist **Steve Upson** has been gardening with the public for almost thirty years, since graduating from OSU in 1978. "I enjoy helping people grow fruits and vegetables," he says. "It's the old Peace Corps approach."

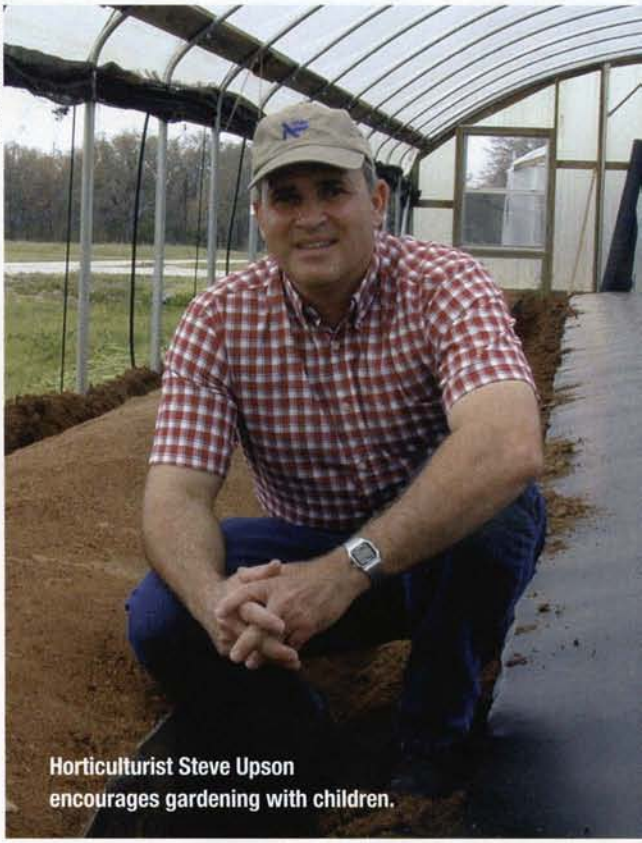
Upson has worked with young green thumbs at area elementary schools, the local YWCA, and the **Bootstrap Garden** at the Martin Luther King Junior Community Outreach Center in **Ardmore**. Along the way, Upson has come up with a few tips for tilling with tots.

First, he says, **make sure you enjoy working with kids**. Next, **give children age-appropriate, hands-on activities** in the garden. When youngsters nurture plants from seed to harvest, it develops their understanding of our roles as caretakers of the earth, Upson says. And finally, **"Remember to look at each gardening exercise through the eyes of a child,"** Upson says. "Children will learn more if they view the exercise as an adventure."

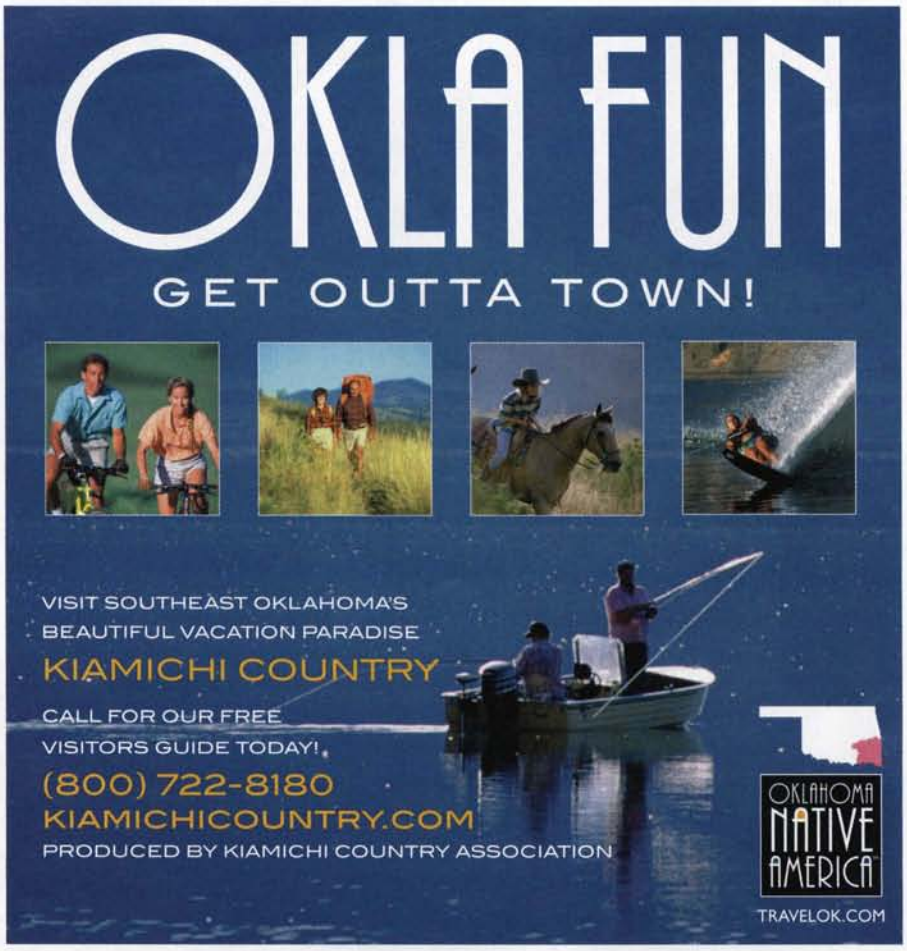
—**Kimberly Mauck**

For more tips on gardening with kids, visit kidsgardening.com. Steve Upson, (580) 224-6433. Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, noble.org.

BRODERICK STEARNS



Horticulturist Steve Upson encourages gardening with children.



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"This place is an enchantment, and we take care of our folks."
—Scott Gilliam on his Mannford property, Eagles Nest

Adventure

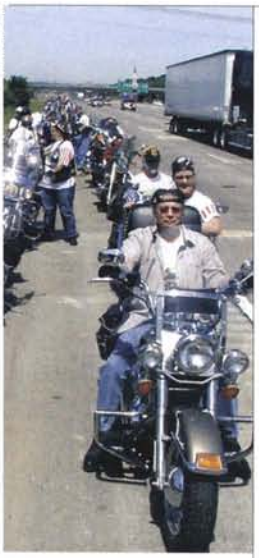
Easy Riders

A motorcyle rally requires more than a free spirit and love of the open road.

BLOOMING FLOWERS AREN'T the only sign of spring for **Scott Gilliam**, owner of **Eagles Nest** (918/865-8472 or eaglesnest-fullmoon.com) near Mannford, site of the **Mother Road Rally** April 21 to 23. With nearly 3,000 bikers in attendance, Gilliam prides himself on the reason for his three annual rallies. "Everything we do is for American veterans," he says. In the spirit of fun and philanthropy, grab this gear, along with the $20 entry fee, and rumble to the party with a purpose. —**Andrea Lopez**

PAM CALLEN

PAM CALLEN



PAM CALLEN

This Memorial Day weekend, May 26 through 29, Eagles Nest will sponsor the American Hero Ride. Bikers will travel from Mannford to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee, often the first stop for injured veterans returning from battle.

Born in the USA

American veterans are the reason for Eagles Nest. Show your pride by equipping your ride or yourself with red, white, and blue.

Rest Up

The three-day weekend means sleep will eventually occur. Bring your camper, pack a pup tent, or nestle down in a cozy cot.

Whatever Gets You There

Though bikes rule, the motorcycle-challenged shouldn't stay home. Whether hot rods, RVs, or the family Buick, four wheels are better than none.

Water Sports

A bikini, one-piece, or your favorite worn-in trunks—swimwear will prepare you for visits to the pond, creek, and rock waterfall on-site.

Full-Service Rally

Just because you're rallying doesn't mean you'll need to miss church. A Sunday morning service provides spiritual nourishment and gospel tunes to boot.

Decibels, Dude

Rockin' bands can sometimes continue until the wee hours. Prepare to stay up late or bring a pair of earplugs if you can't survive without beauty sleep.

Hitch It

With camping necessities, living supplies, and all the fun you'll tote home, a trailer may be a worthy companion for this weekend in the woods.

So Fresh and So Clean

After a day of play, a shower is in order. A fresh towel will round out the rustic tradition of country-style showers. "All you can see is a head and legs," says Gilliam.

Boots Made for Walking

Mother Nature surrounds this spring rally, which makes a good pair of hiking boots a necessity. Take to the trails and explore the beauty of the area's scenery.

Snag That Sitter!

While adults are guaranteed a good time, the kiddos should stay supervised at home. With the exception of a family rally in October, you must be twenty-one to enjoy an Eagles Nest rally.

Get This!

A Fancy Pocket Knife

Twenty-six years ago, **Al Crenshaw** made a knife, and soon, the Webbers Falls resident was slicing out his intricate creations and selling them around the world. Crenshaw grinds each blade from raw steel and creates handles out of materials like bone, abalone, and mother of pearl. $150-$350 each. (918) 452-2128.

CHRISTOPHER LEE

THE OSAGE

Deep in the heart of Osage County, horizontal lines and never-ending vistas remind us of our essential heritage as Plains travelers, buffalo hunters, and windswept pioneers.

Photograph by Shane Brown

Land of milk and honey, oil and money: Osage County is one of the most storied pieces of land in Oklahoma. Home to the Million Dollar Elm, where oil men like Frank Phillips and E.W. Marland once negotiated wildly profitable oil deals with the Osage tribe, this wide-open land of tallgrass prairie is, even today, flanked by thousands of buffalo and wild horses.

The largest county in Oklahoma at 2,251 square miles, there are no malls here, no interstates, and just one beautiful, winding federal highway—U.S. 60—a road that patiently awaits Scenic Byway status.

The Osage arrived here in 1872, and the tribal reservation's original home was the entirety of Osage County. While it doesn't own all of the surface land today, the tribe retains the mineral rights beneath the land.

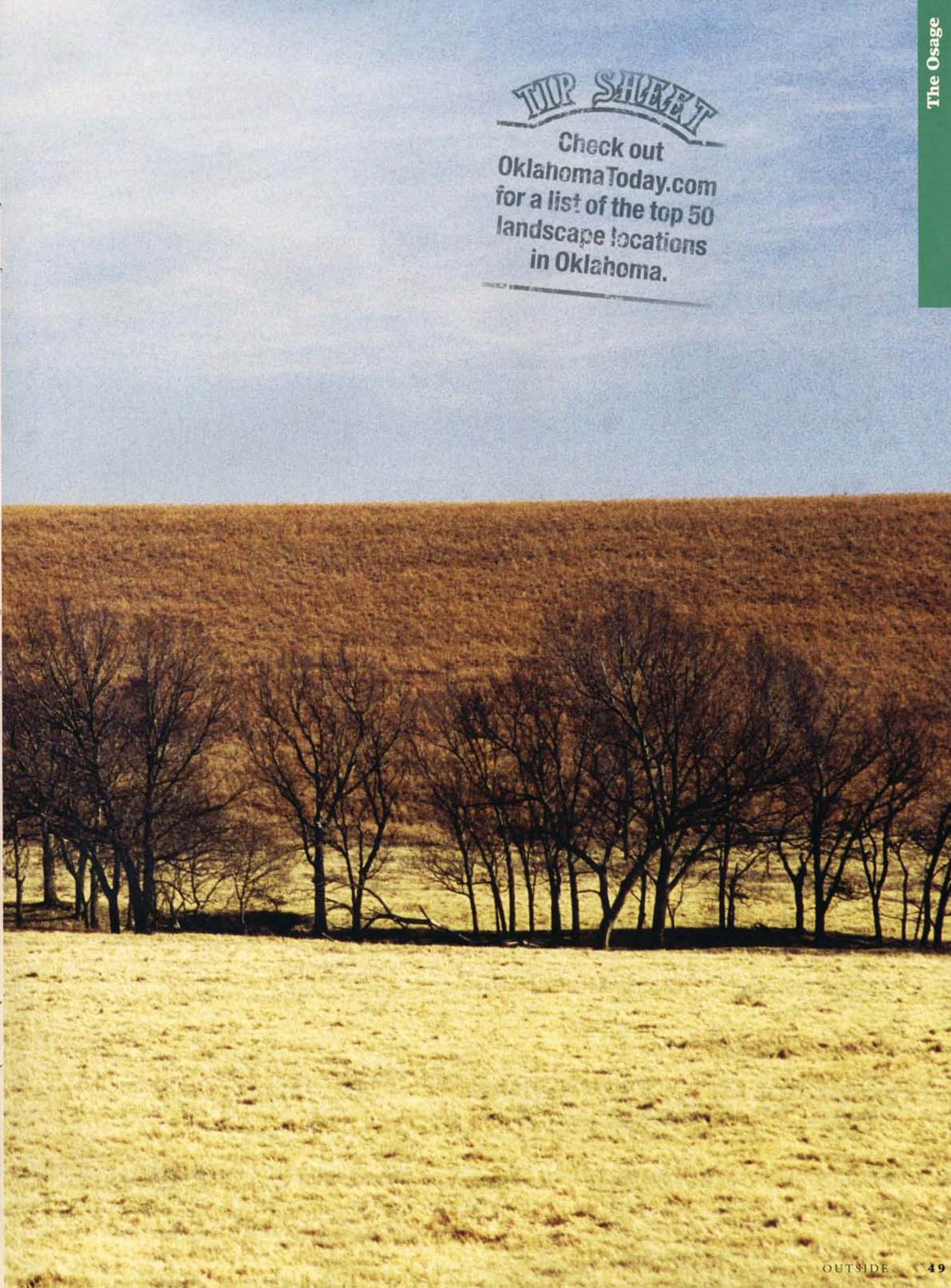
This big-sky country and its many back roads are matched equally by the Osage's historic towns like Barnsdall, Pawhuska, and Hominy.

The West: It lives on, alive and thriving in Osage County.

—Louisa McCune-Elmore

For weekend information, visit the area's website, visittheosage.com.

Larger than Delaware or Rhode Island, Osage County—known for its wide-open prairies, wildflowers, and rich Native American history—is Oklahoma's largest county.



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Eat Up

"We have the market cornered on all of the products in one place."
—Alix French, Kilkenny's general manager

EVAN TAYLOR

Brewed in Krebs at Pete's Place, Choc beer is the only Oklahoma beer sold at Kilkenny's Authentic Irish Pub in Tulsa.

Where to Go for Beer

Foam Home

Raise a glass to the Celtic ambiance and extensive brew selection at Kilkenny's Irish Pub.

Nothing says Saint Patrick's Day like a frosty brew. To truly experience the holiday spirits, head to **Kilkenny's Authentic Irish Pub**, located in Tulsa's **Cherry Street** district.

Kilkenny's is Oklahoma's only pub with an Irish pedigree. "The entire look is done on paper, taken to Dublin, designed and built there, and shipped here. This is actually an Irish pub built in Ireland," says general manager Alix French.

Kilkenny's serves some thirty-five beers, either bottled or on tap, including Irish-made Guinness, Harp Lager, and Beamish. Oklahoma loyalists might choose to raise their mugs to Choc beer, made in **Krebs** at **Pete's Place**.

"We have the great beers people are asking for, and on top of that, all of the Irish foods," says French. "We're really trying to do things the way they should be done." Luck o' the Irish to ye! —Steffie Corcoran

Kilkenny's Authentic Irish Pub, 1413 East Fifteenth Street in Tulsa. (918) 582-8282 or restauranteur.com/kilkennys/.

In Season

Good Eggs

Go ahead, put all those Fisher eggs in one basket.

CHRISTOPHER LEE

WITH EASTER AROUND the corner, it's a great time to find, not hide, Oklahoma eggs from the Fisher family farm in **Bristow**, where they're in season year-round.

In 1960, Ernest Fisher started **Fisher Eggs and Feed Mill** on land his family has farmed for a hundred years. Today, sons Mark and David Fisher handle most of the farm's egg and feed mill operations.

"People are always commenting on how much better they taste," says Mark Fisher of his family's eggs, "mainly because they're fresher." Fisher's 27,000 chickens eat only a vegetarian diet and are hormone and chemical free. The Fishers are now raising cage-free chickens and will have that variety of eggs available at **Wild Oats Natural Foods** in **Tulsa** sometime this spring.

—**Steffie Corcoran**

Fisher eggs are available in Bristow at ***Williams Discount*** *(918/367-3320) and in Tulsa at* ***Wild Oats Natural Marketplace*** *(918/712-7555) and* ***Petty's Fine Foods*** *(918/747-8616). Restaurants that serve Fisher eggs include the* ***Metro Diner*** *(918/592-2616) and the* ***Savoy*** *(918/494-5621) in Tulsa. Fisher's Eggs and Feed Mill, 29335 South 257th West Avenue in Bristow. (918) 367-6382.*

Get This!

Tailgates to Tea Parties

Look out, Martha Stewart: The Assistance League of Norman's new cookbook is sure to fire up some competition. ***Tailgates to Tea Parties*** (Favorite Recipes Press, $24.95) is stuffed with 192 pages of recipes, including Island Crab Dip and Lobster-Filled Beef Tenderloin. Sales benefit seven area outreach projects. (405) 321-9400 or assistanceleaguenor.org.

"Relax. Get back on the human track."
—Leon Russell, "Stranger in a Strange Land"

JERILYN ARTHUR

Dinner Party

Men-*Only* Meal

Brad Copeland hosts an imaginary no-girls-allowed dinner party with big helpings of 'cue, cake, and comedy.

The Host

Since 1988, Brad Copeland has been part of Oklahoma City's KATT radio morning drive team. Known for celebrity guests ranging from Jack Black to Hulk Hogan, the Rick & Brad show has three times earned the duo the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters' Radio Personality of the Year award. Here, Copeland selects his fantasy dinner party guests.

The Location

"My dinner will be held in the cozy confines of Leo's Bar-B-Q in northeast Oklahoma City over a spread of all their tasty meats and sides, followed by the legendary Leo's strawberry banana cake."

My Guests

BOB BURKE of Oklahoma City is the man responsible for my career in radio. He has written dozens of books about Oklahomans and is a virtual encyclopedia of our state's history.

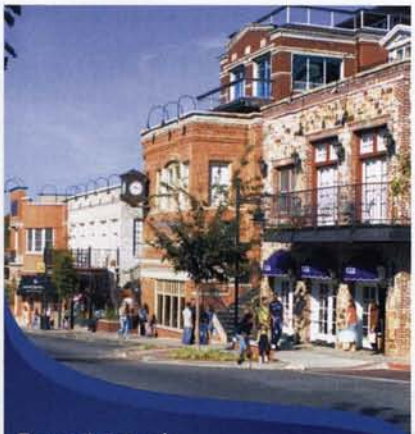
RODNEY CARRINGTON of Tulsa is a guy who can make the guards at Buckingham Palace laugh 'til they cry. Gotta have one comedian at the table.

WOODY GUTHRIE of Okemah is arguably the best known and least understood Okie of all time. I would love to set the record straight on the debates about Woody, plus the music, the activism, and the legacy.

RON HOWARD of Duncan. The *Andy Griffith Show* stories alone would take a week, but I would try to cover as much as I could over one meal.

JAMES P. AND REX LINN of Oklahoma City. Rex is one of my best friends, and he has tons of Hollywood war stories and a way of telling them that can keep everyone entertained. Rex's father Jimmy is one of the smartest and most interesting people I know. As a lawyer, he has represented everyone from David Bowie to Imelda Marcos. No offense to anyone else, but a dinner with just him on the guest list would keep me entertained.

LEON RUSSELL from Lawton is one of Oklahoma's most versatile singer/songwriter/musicians. He has rarely talked onstage, much less to the media. It would be great to hear about his songs and the road stories from his touring experiences.



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The Earth's

BY SUSAN OWEN ATKINSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN JERNIGAN

As Oklahomans yearn for a Whole Foods grocery, the Earth in Norman has long provided a similar experience in miniature.

EVEN WHEN THEY were roaming the country with barely two nickels to rub together, Kate and Richard Haas always tried to eat the healthiest food they could find.

Thumbs in the wind by the highway, the couple explored health food stores along the West Coast. Then, Richard crisscrossed the country while playing in his brother's band, the Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, visiting similar establishments nationwide. The little mom-and-pop stores always impressed them most, selling local produce and local products and helping to define communities.

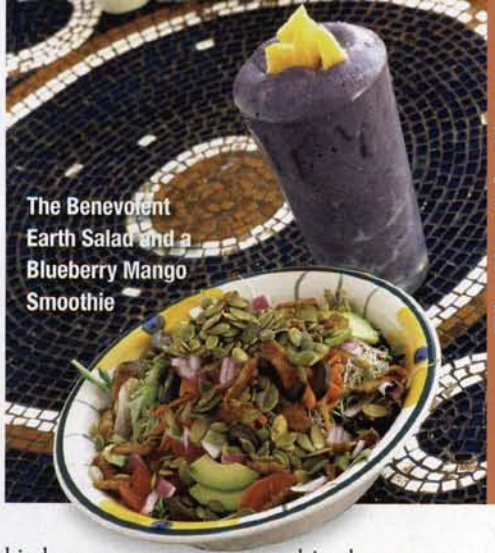
Little did the Haases know that fate had a similar destiny in mind for them. In 2002, the couple collided with the opportunity of a lifetime when they succumbed to Norman's gravitational pull, lured in by friends, familiarity, and the opportunity to live in their dream home.

Oklahoma City native Kate originally met Richard in Norman, where both attended the University of Oklahoma. For a time, Richard had worked at the Earth, a small but venerable Norman health food store. In 2002, after more than thirty years, business at the Earth had languished to the point that the store was up for grabs. Serendipity intervened, and in the

Broken Arrow native Richard Haas owns the Earth, a health food store and deli in Norman. He and wife Kate, an Oklahoma City native, bought the 37-year-old store in 2002.

"Buying local strengthens all of us."
—April Harrington of Earth Elements Farm in Lexington

Goodness


The Benevolent Earth Salad and a Blueberry Mango Smoothie

The Earth in Norman

best Oklahoma tradition, the Haases were offered the chance to prove up on a claim: Work the store to profitability, and it's yours. They now own the store outright.

Originally opened in 1969, the Earth moved through several owners and locations, finally settling into its present locale—a historic red brick grocery store on Flood Avenue, in the mid-1970s. These days, amid a tangle of purple larkspur and surrounded by a community garden, the Earth continues its original mission of offering whole, natural foods and, importantly, serving as a community gathering place. Kate and Richard Haas are absolutely delighted.

"Our customers are everyone from downtown lawyers to frat guys and little old ladies," says Richard Haas, a Broken Arrow native. "The more impersonal the world seems to become, the more people crave personal attention. The Earth is a place where everybody knows your name."

Seven days a week, the Earth's homey atmosphere bustles with people from all walks of life drawn to the juice bar and deli, jars of dried beans, walls of medicinal herbs and spices, and vitamins. Organic produce is a growing staple of the Earth's inventory. "People are finally putting two and two together and realizing that the chemicals added to food profoundly affect their health," Richard says.

A Norman leader in offering Oklahoma-made foods, the Earth sells organic dairy products, cereals, grains, flours, and pastas. Freshly delivered breads—made from Oklahoma ingredients by Oklahoma bakers like Farrell Family Organic Bread in Tulsa, Big Sky Bread in Oklahoma City, and Earth Elements in Lexington—arrive almost daily at the store. "Buying local strengthens all of us," says April Harrington, owner of Earth Elements Farm.

'Our customers are everyone from downtown lawyers to frat guys and little old ladies.'

—Richard Haas

The Earth's deli includes an almost entirely vegetarian menu, headlined by the Super Über Earthburger, a juicy tempeh patty topped with farmer cheese, sliced avocado, and grilled onions. Smoothies are made from frozen organic fruit and juice, with extras such as fresh-ground peanut butter or flaxseed. Throughout the day, customers belly up to the juice bar for fresh carrot juice and delectable blends such as orange, pear, and apple juice. In addition, the Earth offers shots of emerald green wheat grass.

Kate and Richard Haas are also committed to an environmentally sound business model, which means becoming as green as possible. They recycle everything they can; kitchen scraps are composted in the community garden behind the store; shoppers bring their own bags; and pedestrians and cyclists receive a 10 percent discount.

Six devoted Earth employees share the Haases' passion for good food, wellness, and natural healing. Earth employee Maka Laughingwolf loves the fact that the Haases have breathed new life into the old store. "It is a joy to be a part of the Earth's revitalization," she says. Likewise, Kate Haas appreciates her employees' devotion to the Earth and its mission. "They have such a personal stake in the store," she says. "We simply couldn't do it without them."

An Earth customer for a quarter-century, Norman resident Mary Katherine Long delights in the Earth's friendly service and commitment to healthy community. "It has just enough of a funky feel to make old hippies like me and my husband Tom feel right at home," she says. "On Sundays, lunch after church at the Earth is one of our favorite dates."

For Kate Haas, being a part of the community is one of the most satisfying parts of owning the Earth. "Every fiber of our being feels so good about what we are doing. It expands my faith in humanity to see the store affect so many people's lives—to hear people say come in and say, 'I just want to touch down on Earth a minute.'"

The Earth *is located at 309 South Flood Avenue in Norman, three blocks south of Main Street. The store is open seven days a week, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (405) 364-3551.*

Good for Your Body

What is organic?

Organic food comes from plants and animals grown without synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, or feed additives. "Personally, I believe organic food is better for you," says Chad Goss, coordinator of the organics program at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. "And it's good for Oklahoma farmers."

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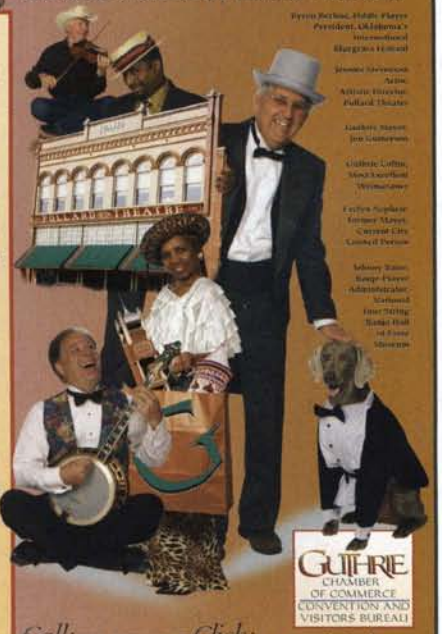

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In addition to regular hours, the museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 13

What On EARTH

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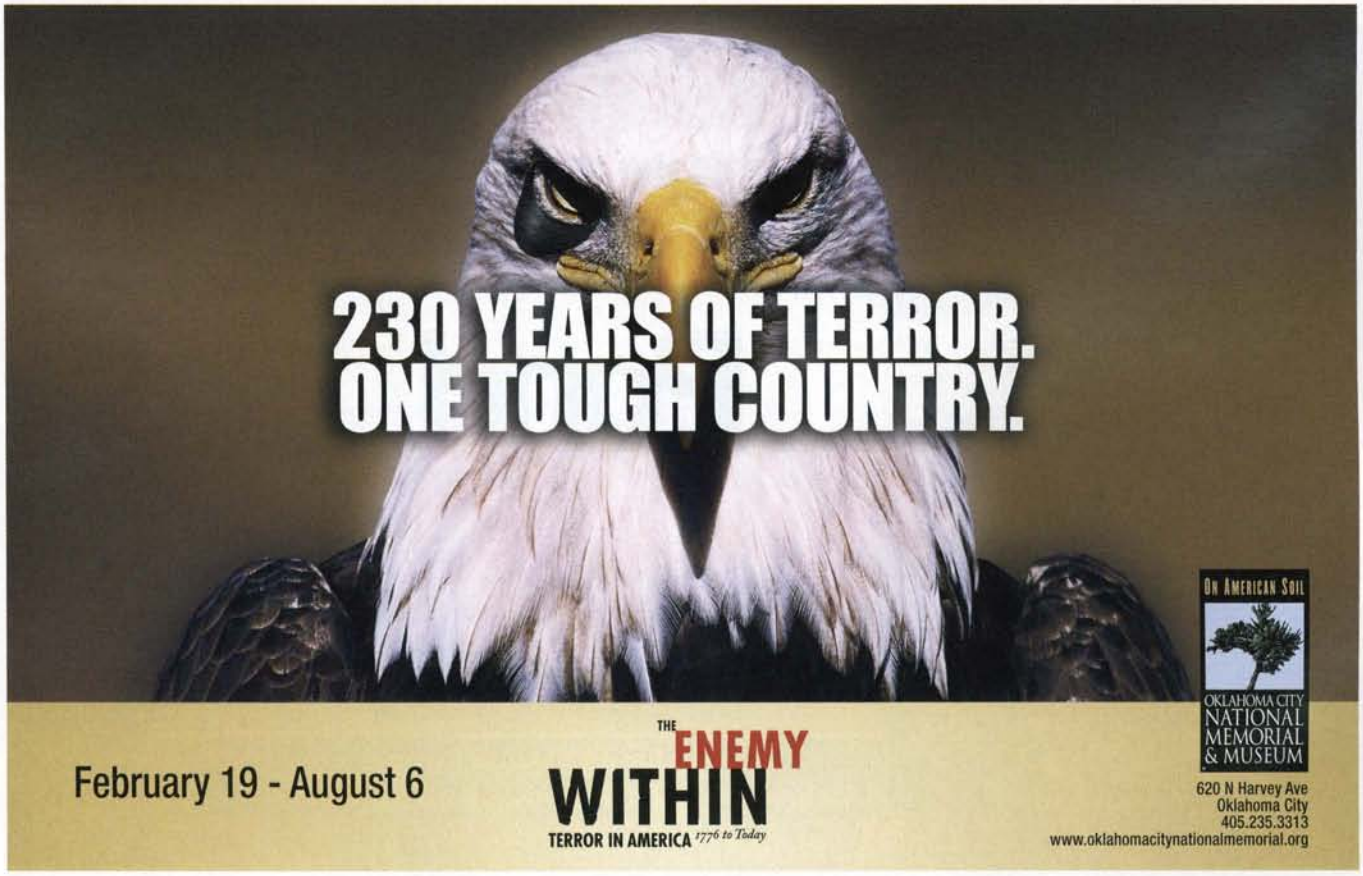


"The pageant will go on rain or shine, sleet or snow."
—*Annette Briley on the Prince of Peace Easter Pageant, the* **Daily Oklahoman**, *March 23, 1997*

Events Guide

Statewide Activities and Happenings

By Megan Rossman

Bartlesville

Bartlesville Community Center 300 SE Adams. Mar 4, Stephen Prutsman & The Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra. Mar 19, Community Concert: Frula. Apr 2, Bartlesville Choral Society: Horizons. Apr 7, The Ten Tenors. Apr 22, Civic Ballet: Spring Performance. (918) 337-2787

Price Tower Arts Center 510 Dewey. Mar 1-Apr 16, Remembering Bruce Goff's Shin'en Kan. Apr 28-30, Karim Rashid. (918) 336-4949

The Rainmaker Mar 31-Apr 2, 7-9, Theater Bartlesville. (918) 336-1900

Duncan

Simmons Center 800 Chisholm Trail Parkway. Mar 9, Go for Baroque. Apr 1, Cameron University Jazz Ensemble. Apr 1, Fun Run. Apr 6, Five Guys Named Moe. Apr 14-15, 21-22, On Golden Pond. (580) 252-2900

Stephens County Fair & Expo Center 1618 S 13th. Mar 7-10, Stephens County Jr. Livestock Show. Mar 24-25, "Mo" Betta Bull Bash Futurity. Mar 31-Apr 1, Rabbit Show. (580) 255-3231

Spring Bluegrass Festival Apr 27-30, Shady Oaks RV Park. (580) 255-7042

Edmond

Edmond Historical Society & Museum 431 S Boulevard. Mar 1-Apr 8, The Festivals of Asia—Celebrating Little Hearts: Jane Iverson Photographic Exhibit. Apr 10-30, Edmond Heritage Celebration. (405) 340-0078

University of Central Oklahoma 100 University. Mar 2, UCO Wind Symphony & UCO Symphonic Band: Carnegie Hall Preview Featuring Valery Kuleshov. Mar 9-11, The UCO Kaleidoscope Dancers Company in Concert. Mar 30-Apr 2, Anne of Green Gables. Apr 7-8, FUBAR: The Musical. Apr. 19-20, Campus-Wide One-Act Play Contest Winners. Apr 20, UCO Wind Symphony Concert: Bach and Forth. Apr 27-29, One-Act Showcase. Apr 28, Valery Kuleshov in Concert. (405) 974-3375

UCO Jazz Lab 100 E 5th. Mar 6, Edmond Jazz Orchestra Featuring Jay Daversa. Mar 9, UCO Jazz Band Concert. Mar 23-25, An Evening With Cole Porter. (405) 359-7989

Enid

Museum of the Cherokee Strip 507 S 4th. Mar 9, Legends and Legacies Series: H.H. Champlin. Mar 15, Brown Bag Luncheon: The Dull Knife Raid. Apr 1-21, Land of Promises: European and African Americans in Oklahoma. (580) 237-1907

The Importance of Being Earnest Mar 24-26, 31, Apr 1, Gaslight Theatre. (580) 234-2307

Guthrie

Lazy E Arena 9600 Lazy E. Mar 3-5, Wrangler Timed Event Championship. Apr 14-15, 89er Day PRCA Rodeo. (405) 282-7433

Art Walk Mar 25, Downtown. (405) 260-2345

Batter Up! An 1889 Baseball Game Apr 21, Cottonwood Flats. (405) 282-1889

Lawton

Cameron University 2800 W Gore. Mar 20, Hyunsoon Whang & Ivan Chan Piano & Violin Recital. Mar 30-31, New Music Festival. Apr 18, Jazz Ensemble Brown Bag Concert. Apr 20-23, The Imaginary Invalid. Apr 27, Cameron University Concert Band & 77th Army Band Concert. (580) 581-2440

Great Plains Coliseum 920 S Sheridan. Mar 3-5, Gun Show. Mar 29, American Theatre Arts for Youth. Apr 1-3, Spring Bash Kickoff Car Show. Apr 7-8, Fliptastics. Apr 8-9, Miniature Horse Show. (580) 357-1483

McMahon Memorial Auditorium 801 NW Ferris. Mar 3, Curious George. Mar 17, Glen Miller Orchestra. Apr 6, Young Artists Show & Reception. Apr 20, Stephen Fite Children's Concert. (580) 581-3472

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge 11 Miles NW of Lawton on S.H. 49. Mar 11, 18, 25, Historical Sites Tour. Mar 31-Apr 1, Stars Over the Wichitas. Apr 8, 15, Prince of Peace Easter Pageant. Apr 8, 15, 22, Spring Wilderness Hike. (580) 429-3222

Muskogee

Five Civilized Tribes Museum Agency Hill on Honor Heights Drive. Apr 1-30, Art Under the Oaks Show. Apr 22-23, Indian Market & Festival. (918) 683-1701

Azalea Festival Apr 1-23, Honor Heights Park. (918) 684-6302

Norman

Norman Train Depot 200 S Jones. Mar 26, Winter Wind Concert Series: Johnsmith. Apr 9, Winter Wind Concert Series: Carrie Newcomer. (405) 307-9320

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History 2401 Chautauqua. Mar 1-19, Hats & Headdresses: Adornment of the Head From Around the World. Apr 23, What on Earth? Object ID Day. Apr 29-30, A T-Rex Named Sue. (405) 325-4712

Sooner Theatre 101 E Main. Mar 2-4, The Sunshine Boys. Apr 14, Marcia Ball Concert. (405) 321-9600

University of Oklahoma Fine Arts Center 563 Elm. Mar 1-5, Equus. Mar 31-Apr 2, 7-9, Pal Joey. Apr 20-23, 26-30, Twelfth Night. (405) 325-4101

Oklahoma City

Blue Door 2805 N McKinley. Mar 4, Keith Sykes. Mar 5, Jane Siberry. Mar 9, Malcolm Holcombe. Mar 10, Beatrice Pike. Mar 11, Sara Hickman. Mar 12, Michael Weston King. Mar 15, Roger Marin. Mar 18, Fred Eaglesmith. Mar 21, Tom Brousseau. Mar 25, Jimmy Webb. Apr 8, Joel Melton & Mark and Laurie. Apr 14, Eliza Gilkyson. Apr 18, Kelly Joe Phelps. Apr 29, Catie Curtis. (405) 524-0738

OETA Program Notes

MARCH

29: Story of 1, 7 p.m.
Monty Python's Terry Jones humorously traces the history of the number that started it all.

APRIL

2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Legislative Week, 1:30 p.m.
News from the Oklahoma State Capitol

3: The Juilliard School: Celebrating 100 Years, 7 p.m.
Features Renée Fleming, Christine Baranski, and more

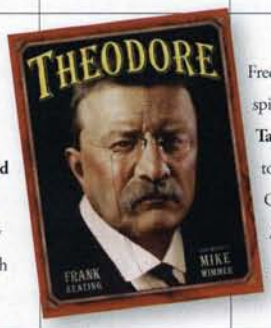
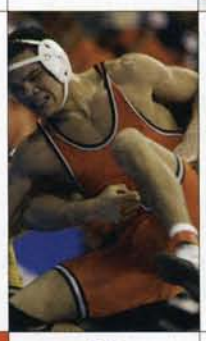
5, 12, 19, 26: The People's Business, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma legislators answer live calls from viewers.

18: Journey to Planet Earth, 8 p.m.
Matt Damon hosts this special on our relationship with the earth.

26: South Pacific in Concert, 8 p.m.
Reba McEntire and others star in this concert.

"Do you like green eggs and ham?"
—Sam-I-Am

March Clover

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Cozy up to the **Heritage Quilt Show** in Shawnee, where you'll be surrounded by the comfort of dozens of quilts old and new. $2. Through March 30 at the Santa Fe Depot Museum.	▼ **2** Today, Read Across America Day, pick up the new children's book, ***Theodore***, a collaboration between former governor Frank Keating and illustrator Mike Wimmer. $16.95.	**3** Yearning for a little four-part harmony? The **Lawton-Duncan Barber Shoppers** quartet performs its old-time musical magic at Duncan's Simmons Center. 7:30 p.m.	
5 Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Flock to Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills for the last day of the **NatureWorks Wildlife Art Show & Sale.** Fifty-plus artists will display work. 11 a.m.	**6** Action! Don't miss an exhibit on the move at Tulsa's Philbrook Museum of Art. **Cut: Film as Found Object** includes short films created from recut favorites. Through March 26.	▲ **7** Visit **In the Classic Tradition: Paintings by Nelson Shanks** at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in Norman. Shanks' portrait subjects have included Princess Diana. Through March 12.	**8** Behold the creations of a longtime OSU faculty member at the **Dean Bloodgood Retrospective** at the Gardiner Art Gallery in Stillwater. Through March 24.		**10** Fred Astaire fan? Be inspired by **Tony Waag's Tap City**, coming to the Charles B. Goddard Center in Ardmore for one performance only. 8 p.m.	**11** ▲ In the West, they rhyme the best. Spend **An Evening With Baxter Black** as the poet performs at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. 7 p.m.
	◀ **13** It's American Chocolate Week, as if you needed an excuse to consume the delectable confections from **Bedré Fine Chocolate** in Pauls Valley. bedrechocolates.com.	▼ **14** From medieval to modern, the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee offers melodic artifacts at **Cultural Rhythms: Timeless Musical Instruments**. Through April 30.		◀ **16** The **NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship** puts the smackdown, literally, on the mats of the Ford Center in Oklahoma City. Through March 18.	▼ **17** Do you like green eggs and ham? How about frosty green beers? Head to Stillwater for the **Eskimo Joe's St. Patrick's Day** celebration, where today, green is the new orange. 8 a.m.	**18** Oh, go fly a kite! Take advantage of stiff spring breezes and sail to Sequoyah State Park near Hulbert for **Kite Flight and Family Fun Day**. 1-3 p.m.
19 Walk the talk at the **Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center**. Archaeologist-guided equinox tours are sure to educate you on the mysteries of the mound. Through tomorrow.	▼ **20** There's no yellow brick road to follow, but witches and cowardly lions await you at ***The Wizard of Oz*** at the Muskogee Civic Center. Today's performance, 10 a.m.		**22** Let **The Other Pillars of the Community** photos develop your understanding of women at the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus. Through March 31.	**23** Stop fiddling around and head to the **Dyson Family Bluegrass Festival** located three miles outside Sayre. You're sure to have a fun night, no strings attached. Through March 25.		**25** ▼ You don't need 20/20 vision to appreciate the 3-D art at the **Vision Makers 2006** exhibit at Leslie Powell Gallery in Lawton. Through May 3.
26 The girls are back in town for the **Oklahoma Cowgirls Association Barrel Racing** at the Claremore Expo Center. More than 150 participants will compete to be the fastest. 10 a.m.		**28** Move to the beat at the **Cameron University Percussion Ensemble** featuring Dr. Christopher Deane and Dr. Scott Deal at the university's theater in Lawton. 8 p.m.	**29** History repeats itself today at the **Fort Washita Mountain Man Fur-Trading Rendezvous** near Durant, where reenactors portray traders from the 1700s to 1800s. Through April 2.	**30** Make sure to stake your claim, because today is the first day of **Indian Territory Days** at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah. Through tomorrow.	**31** Knowledge is power at the **Delaware County Inter-Tribal Youth Council Contest Scholarship Powwow**, held at the Jay High School old gym. 6 p.m. Through tomorrow.	

"The scramble is a fun time to go out and play Oklahoma state park golf courses, which are beautiful."
—Ryan Chapman, director of golf operations for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

Carpenter Square Theatre 400 W Sheridan. Mar 2-5, 9-11, Tiger Lady. Mar 24-25, 31, Apr 6-9, 13-15, Enchanted April. (405) 232-6500

Civic Center Music Hall 201 N Walker. Mar 3-26, Betrayal. Mar 4, Spotlight on Strings. Mar 24-25, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers. Mar 24-Apr 9, The Big Bang. Apr 9, An Excellent Adventure. Apr 14-30, Nickel and Dimed. Apr 21-23, The Prodigal Son. Apr 28-29, Philharmonic Pops Concert. (405) 297-2264

JRB Art at the Elms 2810 N Walker. Mar 3, Converge/Diverge Featuring Elizabeth Brown, AD Donovan, Gayle Singer, and Charleen Weidell. Mar 3, Konrad Eek Photography Opening Reception. Apr 7, Origins: Linda Warren Mixed-Media Opening Reception. (405) 528-6336

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum 1700 NE 63rd. Mar 3-26, Oklahoma Youth Expo Junior Western Art Show. Apr 15-30, Wildlife Art of Bob Kuhn. Apr 22, Western Heritage Awards. (405) 478-2250

Oklahoma City University 2501 N Blackwelder. Mar 3-5, Lucky Stiff. Mar 5, Waiting List. Mar 9, Apr 13, Project 21: OCU Composers. Mar 26, Civic Music Association: Soloist Sarah Coburn. Apr 5, Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. Apr 8, Canterbury Choral With OCU Men's Chorus and OKC Philharmonic. Apr 11, Ad Astra and University Singers. Apr 21-23, Parade. Apr 30, Flute Choir. (405) 208-5000

State Fair Park I-44 & NW 10th. Mar 3-5, Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo. Mar 12-19, 2006 Oklahoma Youth Expo. Mar 23-26, India Temple Shrine Circus. Mar 25, Apr 21-23, OK Spring Arabian Horse Show. Mar 29-Apr 2, Oklahoma Quarter Horse Spring Show. Apr 1, Largest Garage Sale in OKC. Apr 12-16, Oklahoma Centennial Horse Show. Apr 27-30, Speed Horse Barrel Racing Futurity. (405) 948-6704

Valery Kuleshov: Pianist Mar 7, Oklahoma City Community College. (405) 682-7579

Jimmy Webb & Kevin Welch in Concert Mar 24, Stage Center. (405) 270-4800

Redbud Classic Apr 8-9, Waterford Complex. (405) 842-8295

Festival of the Arts Apr 25-30, Downtown. (405) 270-4848

Stillwater

Gardiner Art Gallery 108 Bartlett Center. Mar 29-Apr 14, Graphic Design Portfolio Exhibition. Apr 19-30, Juried Student Art Exhibition. (405) 744-6016

Sheerar Museum & Cultural Heritage Center 702 S Duncan. Mar 1-Apr 30, History of Stillwater & Payne County Schools. Apr 27, Kathy Jones: Color Pencil Demonstration. (405) 377-0359

Tumbleweed Calf Fry Apr 28-29, Tumbleweed Concert Arena. (405) 377-0076

Gray

With all the
rain falling

you'd think
everything would
be washed clean,

laid in neat
rows like
farmed corn

or folded
clothes, still
warm on the bed

but mud runs
onto the walk

and we watch
it spread
like fingers

while waiting
under the tin roof.

—Darin Ray Smith

Darin Ray Smith lives and writes in Oklahoma City.

Tahlequah

Cherokee Heritage Center 21192 S Keeler. Mar 1-Apr 21, Cherokee Genealogy Dawes Roll Exhibit. Mar 4, Honeysuckle Basketry Class. Mar 4, Apr 1, Cherokee Saturday. Mar 4, Apr 1, Genealogy Class. Apr 1, Cherokee Clothing Class. Apr 22, Cherokee Pottery Class. Apr 29-30, Trail of Tears Art Show & Sale. (918) 456-6007

Sequoyah Institute 529 Seminary. Mar 7, Cathie Ryan. Apr 8, Sourdough Slim. (918) 458-2075

Tulsa

Central Library 400 Civic Center. Mar 11, Circle of Honor. Mar 11, Festival of Words Featuring Wilma Mankiller. (918) 596-7398

Expo Square 4145 E 21st. Mar 3-5, Green Country RV Show & Sale. Mar 4, 11, 25, Apr 1, 8, 22, 29, Tulsa Flea Market. Mar 9-12, Barrel Race Futurity & Derby. Mar 9-12, Tulsa Home & Garden Show. Mar 10-11, Tulsa County Spring Livestock Show. Mar 16-19, Tulsa International Auto Show. Mar 25-26, Kannon Draft Breeder's Horse Auction. Apr 1, Oklahoma Pinto Horse Association Horse Show. Apr 1-2, Wanenmacher Tulsa Arms Show. Apr 21, Green Country Triumphs Autocross. Apr 22, Bikes & Badges. (918) 744-1113

Gilcrease Museum 1400 N Gilcrease. Mar 4, The Prima String Quartet. Mar 19, As Long as the Grass Shall Grow and the Rivers Flow. Mar 19, Changing Artistic Styles of Western Painters Lecture. Apr 8, Your World: Then & Now Workshop. Apr 23, Film: Rendezvous Artists' Works in Progress. (918) 596-2700

Tulsa Garden Center 2435 S Peoria. Mar 11, Iris Judging Show. Apr 1-2, Cacti Show & Sale. Apr 8-9, Orchid Show & Sale. Apr 14-15, Spring Garden Market. Apr 22-23, Bonsai Show & Sale. Apr 22-23, Iris Show. Apr 29, Perennial Plant Sale. (918) 746-5125

Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd. Mar 3-5, Ariadne auf Naxos. Mar 3-5, Children of a Lesser God. Mar 3-5, 8-11, Great Expectations. Mar 13, Amazing Thailand. Mar 14, Michael Bublé. Mar 18, Meredith Monk. Mar 24-25, Bohola. Mar 24-30, Apr 1-2, Our Town. Apr 1-2, 6-8, Anne of Green Gables. Apr 7-9, Tulsa Ballet: Evolution. Apr 10, Bavaria & the

Win Tickets

OKLAHOMA TOURISM

Amateur golfers can take a swing at winning coveted tickets to the **Senior PGA Championship** at **Oak Tree Golf Club** in Edmond at the **Oklahoma State Parks Two-Person Scramble** this April. Four teams from each of the qualifying rounds played at eight different state park courses will go on to compete at the final competition on May 6 at **Roman Nose Resort Park**. Play on!

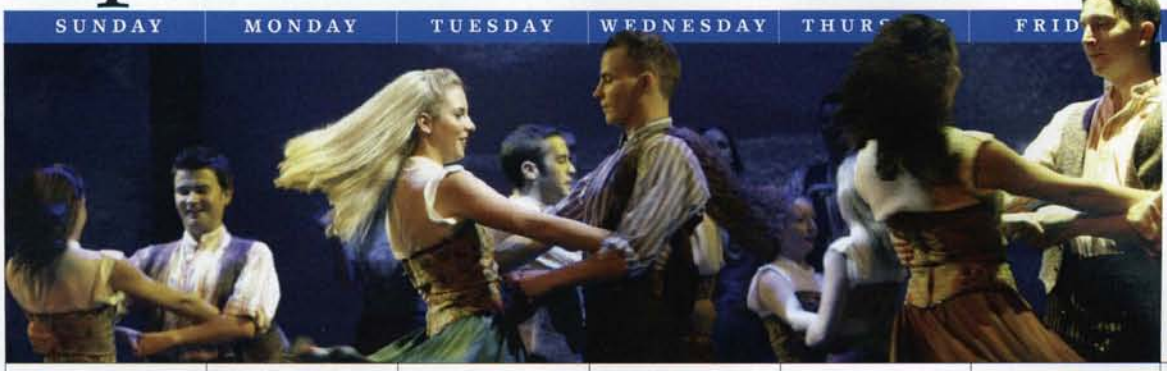
—Brooke Adcox

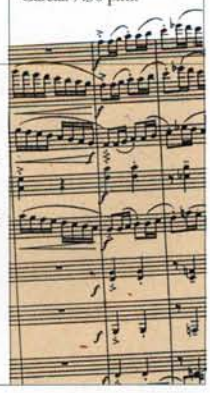
For more information, contact Oklahoma Parks, Resorts, & Golf. $100 entry fee per team. (866) 602-4653, extension 03 or oklahomagolf.com.

"When all is said and done, the only thing you'll have left is your character."
—Vince Gill

April Easter

By Tom Hoyt



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Grab your armor, because the Middle Ages are back. Join knights, minstrels, and magicians at the **30th Annual Medieval Fair** in Norman's Reaves Park. Through tomorrow.
2 Tap those toes to the Irish rhythms of **Riverdance** during the tenth anniversary tour at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. Today's performances, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.	**3** Plant yourself at the Oklahoma City Bass Pro Shops for the **Food Plot Basics** course. This live demonstration will cover preparing soil and choosing plants to best attract wildlife. 7 p.m.	**4** Head to the Mustang Public Library for Northeastern State University professor Bill Corbett's discussion of ***Out of the Night: The Spiritual Journey of Vietnam Vets***. 7 p.m.	**5** Drum up the family for the opening ceremony of the **Symposium on the American Indian** at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Through April 8.	**6** Chalk up another art award for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma's **Montmartre Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival** in Chickasha. Drawing begins at 7:30 a.m.	**7** Native American storytelling, independent films, and dance are on tap for **Marketfest 2006** at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton. 6 p.m. Through tomorrow.	**8** Saddle up for the 1800s at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher for **Living History on the Chisholm Trail.** Reenactor encampments and craftsmen will be on hand. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
9 Check out the **Family Concert** at the Bartlesville Community Center, where youngsters perform with the local symphony. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.	**10** For National Landscape Architecture Month, do a little dirt work of your own by planting one of the forty elm varieties available at **Sunshine Nursery** in Clinton. Grow on, you can do it.		**12** Country superstar and Norman native **Vince Gill** turns forty-nine today. Celebrate by snagging his twenty-second 2003 release, *Next Big Thing*.	**13** Thumb got the blues? Turn it green at the **Myriad Botanical Gardens Annual Plant and Garden Sale** in Oklahoma City. Through tomorrow.		**15** Buffalo through a fifty-mile race or take a pleasure ride at the **Bison Bicycle Tour**. The race starts at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Registration, 7:30 a.m.
	17 Take five and watch more than seventy films at the **Bare Bones International Independent Film Festival** at Muskogee's Roxy Theatre. Through April 23.	**18** Bring your appetite tonight for some finger-lickin' ribs at the **Guthrie 89er Celebration Chuck Wagon Feed** at the Logan County Fairgrounds. 6 p.m. Through April 22.	**19** A bright idea is on display at Oklahoma City's Untitled ArtSpace. The **Portable Light Project** exhibit chronicles the creation of an affordable alternative light source. Through April 22.	**20** Stake your claim at the **Choctaw Land Run Festival** at Choctaw Creek Park. Through April 22.	**21** Celebrate **James Garner Week** with the actor at an afternoon unveiling ceremony of the James Garner statue at Norman's Edwards Park.	**22** Tune in to the East Central University Wind Ensemble's performance of the **Oklahoma Centennial Suite for Band**, composed by W.T. Skye Garcia. 7:30 p.m.
23 / **30** Cook up good times at **A Fare to Remember Kitchen Tour for Scholarships** and view six fabulous Bartlesville kitchens. 1-4 p.m.	**24** Are you the next Frederic Remington? Learn tips at western landscape artist **Kenny McKenna**'s oil painting demonstration at the Sheerar Museum in Stillwater. 7:30 p.m.		**26** It's National Richter Scale Day! Have a seismic Meersburger at the **Meers Store** and view a seismograph that formerly monitored the Meers fault.		**28** Everything is better in pairs at the **Southwest Tandem Rally** at Lake Murray Lodge in Ardmore. Through April 30.	

RIVERDANCE, JOAN MARCUS; VINCE GILL, ANDREW ECCLES; BURGER, R.E. LINDSEY

Black Forest. Apr 21-23, 28-30, Oliver! Apr 22, Los Folkloristas. Apr 22, 28, 30, The Marriage of Figaro. Apr 23, Jamie Adkins in TYPO. (918) 596-7111

Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum 6421 E 36th. Mar 20-24, Children's Zoo Spring Activities. Mar 20-24, Spring Break Exploration Day Camp. Apr 22-23, Earth Day Spring Fling. (918) 669-6600

Out & About

ADA East Central University Gallery, 1100 E 14th. Apr 11-28, Student Show. (580) 310-5353

ARDMORE Goddard Center, 401 First St SW. Apr 28, North Texas Chamber Players. (580) 226-0909

BERNICE Spring Crappie Tournament, Apr 15, Indian Hills Marina. (918) 256-6954

BROKEN ARROW Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Mar 31-Apr 1, 6-9, Broken Arrow Community Playhouse. (918) 258-0077

CHECOTAH Civil War Candlelight Tour & Life Program, Mar 18, Honey Springs Battlefield. (918) 473-5572

CHICKASHA Larry Able Team Roping, Mar 5, Apr 2, Grady County Fairgrounds. (405) 224-2031

CLAREMORE Will Rogers Wild West International Expo, Apr 20-22, Claremore Expo Center. (918) 343-8129

DAVIS Arbuckle Affair, Apr 1-2, Murray County Expo Center. (580) 369-2552

DURANT Mega Bull, Apr 22, Choctaw Casino & Resort. (580) 924-1550

GROVE Grove Civic Center, 1720 S Main. Apr 14-16, AKC All-Breed Dog Show. Apr 29, Tri-State Kennel Club Dog Show. Apr 30, Bartlesville Kennel Club Dog Show. (918) 786-6107

FORT GIBSON Old Fort Days, Apr 21-23, Fort Gibson Historic Site. (918) 478-4088

GUYMON Doc Gardner Memorial College Rodeo, Mar 30-Apr 1, Henry C. Hitch Arena. (580) 349-1348

HENNESSEY Quilt & Tractor Show, Apr 22, Main Street. (405) 853-6801

HULBERT Made in Oklahoma Festival, Apr 28-29, Sequoyah State Park. (918) 772-2108

IDABEL Dogwood Days Festival, Apr 6-8, McCurtain County Fairgrounds. (580) 286-3305

JAY Gigging Tournament, Apr 7-8, Lake Eucha. (918) 253-2295

JENKS Herb and Plant Festival, Apr 15, 2nd & A Street. (918) 227-1528

JET Birding & Crystal Festival, Apr 29-30, Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. (580) 626-4794

McALESTER Pittsburg County Total Living Show, Apr 1-2, Expo Center. (918) 423-2550

PARK HILL Trail of Tears Art Show & Sale, Apr 29-30, Cherokee Heritage Center. (918) 456-6007

PAWNEE Pawnee Folk & Springfest Rendezvous, Apr 29, Pawnee County Courthouse Square. (918) 762-2493

PERRY Rural Heritage Festival, Apr 29, Cherokee Strip Museum. (580) 336-2405

VIAN Loon Watch, Mar 4, 11, 18, Tenkiller State Park. (918) 489-5641

WAYNOKA Rattlesnake Roundup, Apr 28-30, Downtown. (580) 824-1931

YUKON Taste of Yukon, Mar 23, Dale Robertson Center. (405) 354-7208

Visit oklahomatoday.com or travelok.com for more listings.

Dates and times are subject to change; please confirm before attending any event. The Events Guide is a free service published on a space-available basis. To be considered, please mail a notice of the event that includes date, place, address, and both a contact telephone number and a phone number that can be published. Notices must arrive at *Oklahoma Today* three calendar months prior to publication (i.e. July/August 2006 events must arrive by April 1). Events Guide, *Oklahoma Today*, 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Fax: (405) 230-8650. Email: eventsguide@oklahomatoday.com. We cannot take listings over the telephone.

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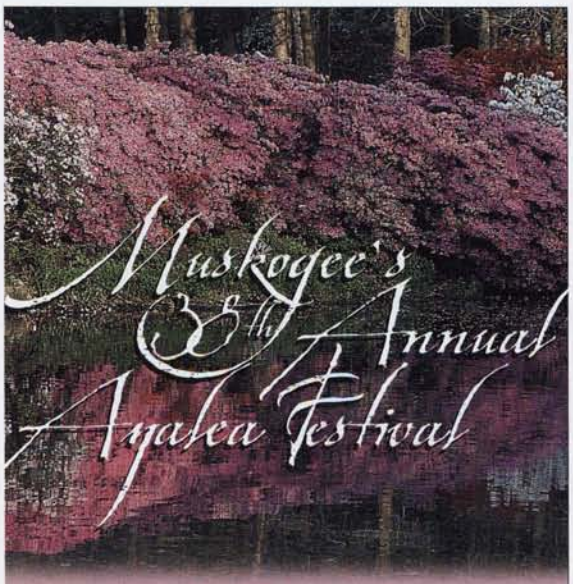

APRIL 1-30, 2006

For more information contact the **Muskogee Convention & Tourism** at **(888) 687-6137** or **(918) 684-6363**.

www.cityofmuskogee.com

Explore the Art & History of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek & Seminole Tribes.

April 1-30: Art Under the Oaks
April 22&23: Indian Market

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Muskogee, OK 74401
www.fivetribes.org
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877-587-4237

"I myself am someone who witnessed a haunting at that location."
—*Sharon Ann States in* **Haunted Oklahoma** *by Troy Taylor*

OKLAHOMA TODAY Quiz

Where Are You?

This southeastern Oklahoma fort is historic and, some say, haunted.

Can you name this site where the original bake oven and west barracks remain partially standing?

THIS CIVIL WAR-ERA fort and one-time Department of the Interior property has a spooky history. Local legend has it that in the 1860s, the headless ghost of "Aunt Jane" began haunting the area. Jane, apparently decapitated by thieves while hiding her gold, is said to roam the area searching for her bounty—and, it stands to reason, her head. Since 1962, the Oklahoma Historical Society has operated the site, which hosts a number of annual events, including the Mountain Man Fur-Trading Rendezvous, this year March 29 through April 2. Can you name this Bryan County Fort? **—Brooke Adcox**

Mail entries, including name and town, to Oklahoma Today, "Where Are You?", 120 North Robinson, Suite 600, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102, or send responses to wheareyou@oklahomatoday.com no later than March 10, 2006. Oklahoma City's ***Metro Conncourse*** *was the January/February 2006 "Where Are You" answer. Winners are Janice Brower of Heavener; Lisa Scheuermann of Goshen, New York; and Virginia Yabsley of Oklahoma City.*

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